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A
SKETCH OF THE MATERIALS
FOR A NEW AND COMPLEAT
HISTORY OF CHESHIRE:
WITH
SOME SHORT ACCOUNTS
OF THE
CHARACTERISTIC GENIUS AND MANNERS
OF ITS INHABITANTS,
AND OF SOME
LOCAL CUSTOMS PECULIAR TO THAT COUNTY PALATINE:
IN
A LETTER TO *THOMAS FALCONER*, Esq.
OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
FROM THE LATE *DR. GOWER*.

The Muse, her native Land to see,
Returns to ENGLAND, over DEE;
Visits STOUT CHESHIRE, and there shews
To HER and HERS, what ENGLAND OWES;
And of the Nymphets sporting there,
In WIRRAL and in DELAMERE. *Drayt. Polyolb. Pref. to Song xi.*

THE THIRD EDITION,
WITH AN ENTIRE NEW PREFACE,
AND AN ACCOUNT OF FURTHER MATERIALS
FOR THIS HISTORY.

LONDON:

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AND MR. BROSTER, IN CHESTER.

1800.



PREFACE TO THIS EDITION.

HISTORY has been defined, by some Writers, the *Register* of Ages past, and the *Mirror* of the present. But, in whatever Light we view it, either of Instruction, of Intelligence, or of Amusement, the History of our own Country will always be reckoned the most useful and entertaining. Whatever more immediately concerns ourselves, necessarily becomes the striking Object of our Attention. And, in this respect, the History of our several Counties—though possibly less pleasing than many other Parts of History—may be rendered the most useful to those Persons, who bear any Relation to them, either by Habitation, Nativity, or Descent. Authentic Narratives of the Lives and Conduct of our direct and specific Ancestors; of the Qualities, Products, and Inheritance of their landed Property; with the several Actions which have been performed in different Periods of Time, upon that particular Spot we inhabit; naturally awaken the Curiosity and Passions of Mankind to attend the Recital. But of all the Counties of England, perhaps there are few, if any, whose History is either more important in itself, or more particularly interesting to its Inhabitants, than that of the County of CHESTER. The peculiar Circumstance of its having enjoyed a Palatinate Jurisdiction, and even a Species of Monarchy for some Centuries, renders the Account of it more curious and amusing than that of any other of its Sister Provinces. And this Royal Jurisdiction, by closely connecting the Inhabitants together, as the Common Subjects of the same Provincial Monarch, has formerly occasioned their social Intercourse to be so much more intimate and friendly, as to have given rise to this Proverbial Observation:

As Fowls cling close in stormy Weather,
So Cheshire Men will knit together.

HOLMES'S MSS.

And from this Principle of friendly Union has been derived another, pretty similar in its Nature, and its Consequences; I mean that Provincial Spirit, which formerly cherished such a partial Fondness for their native Soil in the Breasts of the Inhabitants, that they imagined every Thing which was of Cheshire Origin to be superior to the Productions of any other Part of England. The Land was more fertile, the Women were fairer, and the Men were hardier than their Neighbours. From which Principle it is imagined sprung the Proverb, remarked by DRAYTON,—*Cheshire Chief of Men.*

It was this Fondness for their own particular Spot, and every Thing around them, which probably may have influenced the Natives of this County to have so tenaciously retained their original Landed Property; a Principle of partial Affection for the Mansion they were born in, which has rendered their Families more ancient, their Genealogies more clear, and their Provincial Memorabilia more numerous and entire, than in any other County of the Kingdom.

As a regular then and well-digested History of Cheshire is, for these several Reasons, so peculiarly interesting to its Inhabitants; at the same Time as it is singularly curious and important in itself; it may be natural to enquire—what Collections have been made with the spirited Design of compiling any Narrative of it, and what Materials exist either in *Print* or *Manuscript* for such a laudable Undertaking.

The *Manuscript* Materials are much more numerous and valuable than the *Printed* ones. For, in reality, what the Press has hitherto produced relative to this County, is by no Means equal to the intrinsic Merit of the Subject. The first Treatise which made its Appearance was a small Folio in the Year 1656, under the Title of *King's Vale Royal* *.—It received this Title from the Name of its Publisher, *Daniel King*, and from a favourite Spot in this County of our illustrious Monarch Edward the First †. But, notwithstanding its Royal Title, this Treatise is not so properly a History of Cheshire, as a Series of Collections towards a History of it; gleaned up by two separate and distinct Authors, who had been long dead at the Time of its Publication. And as these Collections had been at first formed with no other View, than either of Self-amusement or of private Information—it is no wonder that, if we consider them *separately*, they should appear to be extremely defective not only in Method, but in Matter; and if we consider them *jointly*, that they should be found to consist of the most tiresome Repetitions. They are both of them too, at this Distance of Time, extremely obsolete and defective in Point of Style and Language.

The second Treatise which made its Appearance in Print, was from a much more able and meritorious Writer; a Folio Volume in 1672, under the Title of the *Antiquities of Cheshire*. But, though the Title is *general*, the Treatise is certainly *particular*: for, excepting a few Articles relative to the whole County, it contains in reality only the History of the *single* Hundred of Bucklow.—Had the Author of this Treatise, Sir Peter Leycester ‡, completed the History of the *six* remaining Hundreds, it would have rendered any Application for a new History

* For a farther Account of this Book, see Pages 5 and 24.

† He founded here a stately Monastery, by the Name of the Abbey *Vale Royal*.

‡ See more of Sir Peter's Collections, Page 54.

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of this County, if not unnecessary, at least very unlikely of meeting with Success: though even in this Case a great Deal would have remained unfinished of our wished-for Plan, towards a general and compleat History of it. Sir Peter's Treatise is almost entirely confined to the Succession of Landed Property. And though he has executed this in a very masterly Manner, yet, by not reducing the Succession into Genealogical Tables, he has occasioned many Readers to complain of his Narrative, as tedious and uninteresting.—But, independent of this Complaint—whether just or not, the Public must determine—the History of any County, to render it either pleasing or compleat, requires some Particulars of the Nature of the Soil, its Products, Manufactures, Local Antiquities, and principal Sepulchral Monuments; together with some Narrative of its *Ecclesiastical* Concerns, and, in such a County as that of Chester, its very peculiarly *Civil* ones. Not to mention, that the City of Chester is sufficiently important of itself to demand a single, and an extensive Relation.

Such are the only Treatises * we have in *Print* relative to our Palatinate. But, if our distinguished County cannot yet boast of any regular and compleat Historian, the Materials still existing in *Manuscript* towards an enlarged and general History of it, are the most numerous and accurate of any other County in the Kingdom. And as these Manuscript Materials are not only in a great Measure unknown, but of sufficient Consequence in themselves, to demand some particular Account of them, the following Sketch was drawn up with the View of handing them to the Notice of the Public.

In its first State it was, what the Title speaks it, a private Letter to a very valuable and ingenious Friend. And when the pressing Solicitations of others, more than any Merits of its own, drew it into Print, the Form of a Letter was still thought proper to be retained, as admitting of a greater Variety of Classical Allusions, more Freedom of Style, and more natural Digressions, than a grave and Historical Dissertation. And the Author is too fearful, that even all these Assurances will scarcely preserve it from the usual Complaint of being tedious and uninteresting.

In this new Edition, he wished to have communicated many more Anecdotes of the Collectors of these Manuscripts; but he was fearful of trespassing too much upon the Expence and Patience of the Reader. There are many Passages too he wished earnestly to have altered, as containing Expressions perhaps rather too florid, and too enthusiastic, for the Gravity of History. But, as they had already passed the severe Trial of the Press, he has permitted the Judgement of some particular Friends to over-rule his own, by reprinting them *verbatim*.

* It is scarcely necessary to except two or three small Local Pamphlets.

With

With regard, however, to those Expressions, which may be supposed rather too *florid*, he sincerely solicits the Candour of the Reader to recollect, that though this little Treatise bears the Title of “A Sketch of Historical Materials,” it is in reality only a Letter to a private Friend. And with regard to those Expressions which may be supposed rather too *enthusiastic*, he wishes they may be jointly ascribed, as well to his Natural Affection for the Place of his Nativity, as to an ardent Desire of fixing the Attention of his Countrymen upon these Numerous and Valuable Manuscripts; in hopes that a due Sense of their *Ancestors*, their *Country*, and *Themselves*, might work up these Materials, by their Provincial Encouragement, into a General and Complete History of their County Palatine.

At the Time when this Letter was first published, the Author himself had not the least Intention of commencing *the County Historian*. But the partial Approbation of several Gentlemen of Literature and Distinction, too unhappily influenced his private Reasons; arising from the *Extent* and *Charge* of the Undertaking, more especially as they repeatedly assured him, that this his favourite Plan would sink into Oblivion, unless he himself undertook the Execution of it.—Upon these repeated Entreaties, he consented to submit his Proposals to the Candour of the Public. And he is fortunate in experiencing the generous Patronage of an indulgent Public, and of many respectable Gentlemen of the County, to these Proposals. Though, after all, he is so far from any Self-Ambition, either of Fame or Fortune, from this Undertaking, that, if any more able Hand would ease him of his future Labours, and his past Expences, he would with Pleasure decline the Office, and subscribe 200 Guineas towards this much wished-for History.

The Materials for it are now so compleatly arranged, that he is able to give some little Abstract of the Contents and Plan of it. The proposed History then of this County Palatine will be sufficiently copious to extend to Three Volumes in Folio.

(1.) The First of which will contain a general Introduction, respecting the Nature of the Soil, its Products, Manufactures, and Local Usages.—After this Introduction, the Author will naturally begin his Historical Detail, with an Account of its earliest State, and first Inhabitants; the Erection of it into a County Palatine; its *peculiar* Jurisdiction; Civil History; Provincial Monarchs; their Barons, and Chief Officers; with a distinct and enlarged Narrative of the City of Chester, the Capital of this Provincial Monarchy.—Twenty Folio Copper Plates, containing the *Armorial Bearings* of the Gentlemen of the County, and many elegant Perspective Views, will embellish this Volume.

(2.) The

(2.) The Second Volume will include the *particular* History, and *civil* Concerns, of the *Seven* Hundreds. Each Hundred will be treated of in the Alphabetical Order of the several Parishes; and the History of each Parish will comprehend an Account of *every* local and peculiar Circumstance attending it; the Townships, Antiquities, Names, and Succession, of the Proprietors of the Soil; their Pedigrees, if of ancient Descent; and their Halls or ancient Mansions.—This Volume too will be embellished with at least Twenty Folio Copper Plates, of the Views of Norman Castles, and other Antiquarian Remains.

(3.) The Third Volume will include the Ecclesiastical History of the County, in which will be contained some Narrative of the State and Condition of the ancient Religious Houses; the Foundation of the Episcopal See; the Lives and Succession of the several Bishops; the Account of their venerable Cathedral, and of every *sacred Edifice* or Parochial Church, digested into the Order of the Alphabet. Under which last Head will be comprehended the *Æra* and Form of the Building, its principal Sepulchral Monuments, *ancient painted Glass*, Coats of Arms remaining upon the Structure, the Tables of Parochial Benefactions, with every other Circumstance of an Ecclesiastical Nature, which may tend to elucidate the Founders of the Church, or to preserve the Rights either of the Parish or the Benefice.—And this Volume will be likewise embellished with 20 Folio Copper Plates, representing the Remains of Religious Houses, the Cathedral, distinguished Churches, *ancient painted Glass*, and Sepulchral Monuments.

The more numerous, however, these Embellishments are, and the more extensive the Plan, upon Account of the vast Treasure of MS Materials—the more diffusive will be the Labour and Expence in the Compilation of this History. It is hoped, therefore, that every candid Person will be so far attentive to these necessary Demands upon the Time, Health, and Fortune, of the Compiler—as not to imagine the proposed Subscription of *Ten Guineas* too large a Sum for this arduous Undertaking. Even this Expence, to each Individual, will be scarcely perceptible, or at the highest Estimate it will be *certain*; to the Compiler, the Expence must be *uncertain*, and, what is more an Object of Attention, in the Issue it will probably be excessive. But, whatever it is, he shall sacrifice it with perfect Chearfulness to the Illustration of his native County. And he has hitherto been so much more anxious about the *Literary*, than the *Pecuniary*, Concerns of his favourite Pursuit, as to have freely consigned the ascertaining the *Terms* of the Subscription to those Cheshire Gentlemen, whom he esteemed the most proper Judges of the Work, and the Ability of the County to favour it with Encouragement.

But

But if those who cherish a Regard and Tendernefs for their native Soil, will only ferioufly reflect—that they cannot purchafe the prefent *printed* and *incomplete* Collections, relative to their diftinguifhed County, under * *Six* or *Seven Guineas*—it is hoped the prefent Propofals will not be efteemed too Expenfive, when the Number of Volumes and Variety of Copper Plates are taken into the Eftimate.—And fhould their Encouragement fwell the Subscription beyond the Author's Expectations, he then engages to embellifh each Volume with at leaft 30 Folio Copper Plates. For which he is already in Poffeffion of a more than Sufficiency of Drawings.

To fee this Hiftory as complete in Point of Accuracy, and as elegant in Point of Ornament, as the Nature of it will admit, muft certainly be the Wifh of every Friend to Literature, and the Honour of this Palatinate. But thefe moft defirable and favourite Objects can never be effectually accomplished without the benevolent and *earlieft* Affiftances of every Well-wifher to the Undertaking.—The free and generous Communications of the prefent amiable Lady Leicefter, reflect the higheft Honour upon her Ladyfhip's Liberality of Sentiment. And as ſhe has *confidentially* dedicated, with an almoſt unprecedented Zeal to the Public Service of her Country, a Manufcript of the greateſt Importance;—ſome ſhort Account of it may perhaps be no unpleaſing Addition to the following imperfect Sketch of Hiftorical Materials. It is a very large well-bound Volume, written by that able Antiquary Sir PETER LEICESTER; and containing nearly 200 Sheets of Imperial Paper. In which he has regularly arranged, in Alphabetical Order, the Pedigree of every Cheſhire Gentleman, from the earlieſt Period; drawn up in a Manner, ſo exact and accurate, as no remaining Evidences, either in the Heralds Office, or in the Repositories of private Families, can in the leaſt equal. Their ſeveral Coats of Arms, in the proper Colours, are elegantly blazoned at the Top of each Pedigree. And indeed the whole Manufcript is of that valuable Genealogical Nature, as to deſerve a *ſeparate*, and even *expenſive* Publication; if we ſhould ſtill preferve thoſe Sentiments of Filial Piety, and Veneration for our Anceſtors, which the moſt poliſhed, as well as the moſt virtuous, Nations have thought it their Duty to cultivate, and their Honour to avow.

* Exclusive of the ſmall Tracts of St. JOHN DODDRIDGE; and the imperfect Notes of Dr. LEIGH, in his Natural Hiftory of the three Counties.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

IN Page the 19th of the following Papers it is mentioned, that the *Publication* of Henry Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh in verse, is a circumstance unknown to all our writers. But, as my ingenious Friend, the Author of the *Anecdotes of British Topography*, has acquainted me with the *Authority* for his Assertion, "That it was published at London, 1521, quarto"—It is certainly a debt due to Friendship, and to Truth, to lay those Reasons before the Public.—The industrious Mr. Ames in his *Typographical Antiquities* gives the running Title of the famous Henry Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh in these Words—"Here begynneth the holy Lyfe and History of Saynt Werburge, very frutefull for all Christen people to rede." Printed by Richard Pynson, with a Wooden Cut of the Saint, and a Table.—The accurate Bishop Tanner too, in his *Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica*, mentions this *Publication*; but says, *only some parts of this celebrated Life were printed in 1521, quarto*. From which his Lordship quotes this single verse—

"When Phebus had ronned his Cours in Sagittari."

Here rests the Evidence of the *Publication* on one hand.—On the other hand, the Reader may, if he pleases, consult the Reasons given in page the 19th of these papers; to which I shall add, that no possible enquiries of mine have been able to discover the least trace of it, in any *private* as well as in any *public* Repository. And the Library of Dr. Richard Rawlinson, where it seemed most likely to have been found, had no such Book in its Catalogue. There are two quarto volumes in *this Collection*, printed by Richard Pynson, not unlike it in Title—No. 4872, *The Lyfe of Saynt Radegund in verse*, without date: No. 5456, *Here begynneth the Lyfe of the glorious Confessoure of our Lorde, Saynt Frauncis*; without date.—Upon the whole, therefore, I can only close this difficulty, with the
good-

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good-humoured expression of Sir Roger de Coverley—"that much may be said
"on both sides:"—Or, in the more elevated stile of the Roman Poet,

—Non Nostrum est tantas componere lites.

Besides the above *seeming* inaccuracy, the omission of a note in the forty-first page, renders some little explanation of a passage there rather necessary. Bishop Bridgeman's Scheme for the Revival of Ecclesiastical Discipline after the Confusion of the Civil Wars, may seem to indicate, as if his Lordship was supposed to have out-lived this melancholy æra of *Public Ruin*. The good Bishop certainly drew it up, with the pleasing hopes, that he might have lived to have executed it himself. But in case he should *pass hence and be no more seen*, before the completion of his earnest wishes, he then very warmly recommended it to the care and execution of his successor.—His Lordship survived till within two years of the happy Restoration of Church and State; and then breathed his last at Moreton near Oswestre in Shropshire, 1658.—His great grandson, Sir John Bridgeman, Bart. erected a handsome monument over his *Remains*, in the year 1719.

The candid Reader is desired to correct the following ERRORS OF THE PRESS.

- Page 15, Line 10, join *Plea-Rolls* with a Hyphen.
- 18, — 12, insert *is*.
- 19, before the Notes, insert 1 2
- 31, Line 7, read with a *Semicolon* after *Capite*
- 33, — 4, the referring Mark 1 to the Note inverted.
- 34, — 2, for *Bostock*, read *Bosloke*.
- 42, — 7, Capital B in *being*
- 43, — 1, for *is* read *was*
- 43, In the Note, after 345, insert 347.
- 46, Line 4, for *Value* read *Valour*.
- 48, invert the two Notes.
- 50, In the Notes, Line penult, for *Lambert*, read *Lambard*.
- 54, Line 3, join *Literary-Parent* with an *Hyphen*.
- 60, — 5, for *COLLECTORS*, read *COLLECTIONS*.

A
Sketch of the MATERIALS
FOR A
HISTORY OF CHESHIRE,
IN

A Letter to THOMAS FALCONER, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH the common occurrences of life have dissolved that pleasing tie which subsisted between us at Oxford; and placed us, not---*longo proximi intervallo*---but as far asunder as East and West; yet, I am always happy in every opportunity of reviving this tender intercourse, and conversing with you upon paper, even at the distance that accident has placed us.

But sure, my good friend, you are not perfectly serious in that flattering expression of *your favourite wishes* ---
“ that my leading passion for our National Antiquities, and
“ the pains I am supposed to have exerted in the pursuit of
“ them, might all at last center in one point, and be entirely
“ dedicated to a HISTORY OF CHESHIRE.” For no one knows, or at least ought to know, better than yourself, how much of the *midnight oil* must necessarily be wasted in this laborious service; and the great demand so extensive an

undertaking is likely to make upon me, both in point of Constitution and of Fortune. *Cheshire*, to its *proper Historian*, I will be bold to say, is the first and most important county in the whole kingdom of Great Britain. Its original and peculiar privilege of having been for many centuries a monarchy of itself---a complete *imperium in imperio* ¹ --- has preserved in the public Repository of its Castle more traces and memorials of its ancient Records, than any other Provincial District can boast of. Add to this, the history of her *Barons bold*---

The mightiest men of Bone, in her full bosom bred,

--- as Drayton so poetically calls them; and in whose bosom they have flourished from Father to Son² for such a length of ages; and you will easily conceive the almost immensity of matter that offers itself to a *Cheshire Historian*.

But if Glory and Honour, as you sensibly observe, still bear their full proportion to every noble and every arduous task;

¹ I have given you Hugh Lupus's *Charter* under the collections of Henry Bradshaw.

² Camden says, that *Cheshire* always produced more gentry than any other county in the Kingdom. For there was no part of England that formerly supplied the king's army with more nobility; or that could number more knights families. And old *Speed* calls it the Seed-Plot of gentility.

task; here is certainly sufficient *Palm* to excite the honest labours, if not to raise the Enthusiasm of any future historian of this distinguished County. And with the view of kindling up one spark at least of this Enthusiastic Flame, I shall beg your indulgence, in the short compass of this letter, to chalk out some imperfect Sketch of the vast Materials still existing towards a *History of Cheshire*. --- Good Sense itself, with a thorough knowledge of the subject, will easily direct the application of these materials; and then it must be left to the *native generosity* of the Gentlemen of this County, whether their nurturing bounty will in future encourage any ingenious person to arrange these materials, and by registering the acts of their great Progenitors, to rescue these perishing Records from oblivion. --- For my own part it will be sufficient praise, if I endeavour to wreath an *Honorary Chaplet* that may adorn the Brows of their chosen Historian, without presuming to the vanity of placing it on my own.

As the Dictates, however, of Reason are *sterling* in any kind of language; or, as Pope once said to the *Tully* of the age, since---

Plain Truth, dear Murray, needs no Flowers of speech;

---So take, my dear friend, the essence of this whole argument in the homely phrase of Daniel King. --- "That
" there is no County in England more famous for a *long*
" *suc-*

“*succession of ancient gentry*, than this of *Cheshire*, will
 “not be denied; nor for setting forth their descents, and
 “memorable employments; in as much as the substance of
 “all publique records for almost four hundred years are
 “carefully *preserved in the Castle at Chester*; and that the
 “*private evidences concerning the particular families* of that
 “County, are, by reason of their *long duration*,¹ *less dispersed*
 “than those of many others, through the great and frequent
 “changes that have befallen them in most places. --- It is
 “therefore to be hoped, that the *worthinesse* of the *subject*
 “will stir up such, whose greater abilities may, by a more
 “exact survey and search into the antiquities of this shire,
 “contribute farther to its honour, by restoring to light
 “its ancient glory, for the more ample content of all *per-*
 “*sons concerned* therein, and their own lasting memory.”

This sensible Extract from Daniel King, is the substance
 of his Preface to what, He is pleased to call --- *The Vale*
Royal of England.² But had the comic powers of that easy
 poet, Gay, thought proper to have given it a name; he
 would

¹ The great Selden in his notes upon Drayton's *Poly-Olbion*, has this remark:
 —“Generally in these northern parts of England, the gentry is from ancient time
 “left preserved in continuance of *name, blood, and place*; and most particularly so in
 “*Cheshire, &c.*

² The only *general account of Cheshire* we yet have.

would most probably have affixed to it the humourous title of the --- *What D'ye call it of Cheshire.*¹ Since King's Work, as it stands at present, is neither simply a History nor simply Collections; but a *farrago* of valuable materials thrown together in so much disorder, that we may candidly speak of it, as Milton does of the tower of Babel,

—— Thus was the *fabric* left
Ridiculous; and the work *Confusion* named.

But, upon this head, the ingenious author of the --- *Anecdotes of British Topography* --- has expressed himself with so much propriety, that I cannot forbear giving you his sentiments. Speaking of *Burton's* History of Leicestershire, he proceeds thus: --- “ The next county-survey after *Burton's* “ was that of *Cheshire*, 1656; *indigested*, indeed, and *incom-* “ *plete*; but such as, like those of many other counties, we “ must be content with, till some *native Antiquary* rises up “ to enlarge and new model it.”²

Now, after what we have been told by *King* himself of the --- *Worthiness of the subject*; the further *Contribution to its honour*; and the *Restoration to light of its ancient glory*;

¹ Mr. Gay has a Tragi-comi-pastoral Farce by this title.

² Preface to the *Anecdotes of Br. Topogr.* page viii.

can we conceive so ignobly of the *great English blood* of *Cheshire chief of men*,¹ as to suppose them either indifferent or inattentive to such a future History of their County, as may in some measure be equal to the Grandeur of the Design, and to the illustrious subject of which it treats?

Sentiments, such as these, would be entirely inconsistent with that *native provincial generosity* which I have this instant taken the liberty to hint to you. And when I speak, my dear friend, of the *native generosity* of the Gentlemen of Cheshire, I am authorised by modern facts, as well as by the truth of history. But this generous turn of sentiment has always been rendered more eminently conspicuous, by having been particularly directed to that point of conduct, which seemed most likely to promote the *peculiar Honour*, and the *distinguished Character* of this County. Of this nature, certainly, was their celebrated Hospitality of yore: Which was really so diffusively extensive, as not only still to live in Poetic Song, but in the relations of graver Writers. I shall presently give you instances from both. But I must first of all conclude this remark, by observing, that the modern sons

1 — The noblest Cestrian shore,
Of our *Great English Bloods* as careful here of yore,
As *Cambria* of her *Brutes*; now is, or could be then.
For which our Proverb calls her, *Cheshire Chief of Men*.

Drayton's Poly-Olb. Song 11. line. 5.

of

of Cheshire are not any ways degenerated from the spirit of their Fore-fathers, in the *Provincial* Character of *Generosity*---If the English *Roast Beef*, and the *Beverage* of our Ancestors, retain at this day any part of their former distinction, except in rhyme and metre, it is undoubtedly upon what old Drayton calls --- “The *Cestrian Shore*.” And the Peers themselves, those national inheritors of Honour, have not shewn more attention to the methodising, and illustrating of their Journals,¹ than the present Gentlemen of Cheshire have exerted in the Preservation of their County Records. With this noble view, they have fitted up a Suite of Rooms in the Castle of Chester, I won’t barely say with every Degree of Convenience, but with every Degree of Elegance. And if the great design is still incomplete, it is owing to the want of a proper candidate for that *generous Reward*, which they have publicly offered for the Regular Classing of their Provincial *Muniments*.

Let me now give you instances, both from Poetic and from Prosaic Story, of the ancient Hospitality of Cheshire. --- The muse, in Drayton’s *Poly-Olbion*, speaking of our

¹ The house of Peers are at present so attentive to this important subject, as to have appropriated a particular Fund for the noble purposes of arranging their Records. And out of this Fund, the late Mr. Morant of Colchester in Essex, a Jersey Man, had a munificent salary for Explaining those Journals which were written in old French.

wars in France, thus celebrates the Prowess of *the Men of Cheshire*, by saying that they had

—— “Livelihood of their Own, their Ages to Sustaine;
 “Nor did the *Tenants Pay* the *Landlord's Charge* maintain;
 “But as abroad in Warre, He spent of his Estate;
 “Returning to his Home, his *Hospitable Gate*
 “The Richer and the Poore *stood open to receive* ——
 “They, of all England most, to ancient Customs cleave.”

And Fuller, in his *English Worthies*,¹ confirms this pleasing account of the *Hospitable Gate*, in telling us,---“That
 “the Cheshire Gentry are remarkable for four Things;
 “their *Numbers*, not to be paralleled in England in the
 “like extent of ground; their *Antiquity*, their *Loyalty*, and
 “their *Hospitality*; no County keeping better Houses,
 “which, because all grows on their own, may be the better
 “afforded. --- This truth has given rise to a pleasant ob-
 “servation; that it appeared to all people that the *Cheshire*
 “*Gentry* were good House-keepers, because they gave so
 “many *Wheat-sheaves* in their *Coats of Arms*; *Bread* being
 “the *Staff of Hospitality*, and *Wheaten* the *Best* of all
 “*Bread*. Indeed I myself have reckoned no fewer than

¹ Pages 171, 187.

“fix and twenty’ *Wheat-Sheaves*, called *Garbs* in Heraldry,
 “which are borne in the several *Coat-Armours* of the Gen-
 “try of this County” --- And he takes his farewell of Che-
 shire, by earnestly wishing --- “That some of their *Hospi-*
 “tality were planted in the *South*, that it might bring forth
 “Fruit therein.”

Now, whether the *pleasant reason* of this *bearing* in their Arms, mentioned by Fuller, may be the true one, or the reverse;² it certainly strikes us with the agreeable appearance of an ingenious Probability. And as the highest instance of *Cheshire Hospitality*, he might have carried on the Allusion, by telling us; that these garbs, or *Wheat Sheaves*, are borne by the City of Chester, as well as by the County Palatine itself.

* Our Author might have reckoned many more. Take the following cursory list,

Birkenhead,	Eden,	Maxfield,	Styche,
Brerewood,	Fitton,	Merebury,	Tilston,
Cholmondeley,	Grosvenor,	Mylneton,	Vernon,
Colwich,	Hatton,	Oldfield,	Weever,
Cowper,	Holdesheafe	Preston,	Weaver,
Cradock,	Kemp,	Raincourt,	Wheat,
Darby,	King,	Read,	Whitley,
Dedwood.	Langton,	Rutter,	Wicksted,
Dodd,	Leftwich,	Sandbach	Wirrall,
Doleman,	Masterfon,	Skellerne,	

² *Kent's Grammar of Heraldry* has this Observation under the family name of Raincourt — “The Bearing of Garbs, denotes a Person given to *Hospitality* — and charitable to the Poor.”

D

But

But as *local* Customs, of long standing, give us the clearest insight into the Manners and the Genius of a People--- I cannot avoid reminding you, upon the present occasion, that *Frumenty*¹ makes the principal entertainment of all our *Country-Wakes*, and that no *Festal-Anniversary* can possibly be celebrated amongst the Inhabitants of Cheshire; unless, the *Staff of Hospitality*, as Fuller calls it, crowns the Social and the *Festal Board*.

The above passage from Fuller, puts me in mind of a similar remark of the sensible Verstegan, in his "*Restitution of decay'd Intelligence in Antiquities*." The Modern names of *Lord* and *Lady*, he says, are only polished contractions from the Saxon titles of *Hlaford* and *Hleafdien*. And he is certainly so far right, that whatever words are at this time strictly and purely *English*, are undoubtedly nothing more than the *old Saxon* ones modernized, by smoothing away and polishing the roughness.---Your inquisitive turn of mind has, I'm sure, given you an insight into this language of our ancestors; or, I should have informed you from this author, that *Hlaf* means *bread*, and *dien* means to *serve* or *distribute* it. The sense of *Hlaf*, you know, we still partly retain in the word *loaf*; of which the Saxon term

¹ Our common People call it Firmity---It is an agreeable Composition of boiled *Wheat*, Milk, Spice and Sugar.

term was most certainly the parent.--- A *Hlaf-ford* therefore, or a *lord*, amongst our ancestors was, one, who was the provider of Ceres, or the *afforder* of the staff of life. And the amiable title of *Hleaf-dien* was applied to the Partner of his joys and cares, as being the distributor of her husband's bounty.---Whether the present refinements of life permit any part of the character of the Saxon *Hlaf-ford* to exist in the modern *Lord*'---“ out of the bounds of Wirrall, “ and of Delamere”---I shall leave to your own reflections. But the ancient *Hleaf-dien* so far exists in the modern *Lady*, that by still presiding at her husband's table, she distributes his bounty to the surrounding guests.

Those, who affectedly ape the supposed *refined* manners of a rival nation, want to laugh this custom out of countenance. But I own I always glow with an honest indignation, whenever I see the *substantial manners*, and the *sensible customs* of our ancestors, so miserably fricassied away as they are, by professedly mimicking the genius of a People so contrary to our own.

Let

1 “ We find that our Nobility, which generally do bear the Name of *Lord*, “ have always, and as it were of a successive Custom (rightly according unto that “ honourable Name) maintained and fed more People, to wit, of their Servants, “ Retainers, Dependents, Tenants, and also the Poore, than the Nobility of “ any country in the Continent, which surely is a Thing very honourable and laudable, and most well befitting Noblemen and right noble Minds.

Let us now, my dear Friend, leave this scene of Cheshire Hospitality---where the *Hlaford* and the *Hleafdien* still flourish as of yore---in order to celebrate those, her Literary sons, who have reflected honour upon their native soil, by endeavouring to preserve any memorials of her ancient glory. Amongst these, I shall not presume to rank the collectors of her public Records within the Castle of Chester; because whatever care and pains they may have exerted, has been purely *Official*. I shall only say in general, that if those public Repositories of the *Tower of London*, the *Rolls Chapel*, and the *Office of the Exchequer*, are of the least consequence to the kingdom at large; the *Castle of Chester* is of the same and equal importance to this our County Palatine. But there is one public Record, formerly preserved in this Repository, of much too useful and grand a Nature to be pass'd over in silence.---You are perfectly acquainted with the Survey, which William the Conqueror ordered to be taken of all England; and which went under the Name of *Domes-day Book*, because it was a recorded Evidence of *Judgement* in all possible Cases of disputed Property. *Dom*, or, as we now write it, *Doom*, being the Saxon Word for *Judgement*.---But besides this general Survey, which related to all England,¹ and to Cheshire in common with the other Counties,

¹ Though *Domesday Book* is generally supposed a Survey of all England, yet the four northern counties are not comprehended in the *Original Survey* now remaining.

Counties, there was a *Domes-day* Book peculiar only to our Palatinate ; and which undoubtedly took its Rise from this sensible Institution of the Norman Conqueror. Our great Antiquary, Sir Peter Leycester, frequently mentions this *Cheshire Domes-day* in his History of Bucklow Hundred ; and he not only gives us some extracts from its Contents, but in several places he thus particularly describes it --- “ There
 “ was a *Domes-day Book* in our Exchequer at Chester for-
 “ merly, wherein many Deeds and Records were enrolled ;
 “ but this Book of Record is *now lost*.” And again --- “ In
 “ the Roll of the Ancient Chartes, called *Domes-day*, an-
 “ ciently remaining among the Records at Chester, but *now*
 “ *lost*, and *taken away*, it was found --- *Leuca quæ fuit uxor*,
 “ &c.”¹

But, with the leave of our great Antiquary, this invaluable Record, or at least a Record which ascertains the lineal

maining in the Exchequer. The Saxon Chronicle however says,—“ tenuit Rex
 “ magnum Concilium, et mittebat servos suos per *totam* Angloram Teream,
 “ scrutari, quot *Hydarum* essent in singulis Comitatus, quidque Rex ipse haberet,
 “ et quantum *Censûs* annui.” Chron. Sax. p. 186.—And all the writers of that
 age speak of this survey as extending over the *whole* kingdom ; though later
 ones imagine, that the four northern counties had suffered so much by the ravages
 of war, that the king’s commissioners found it impossible to take any exact survey
 of those provinces.

¹ Pages 220, lin. penult.—317, lin. 6.

and uninterrupted succession of almost every single acre of Cheshire Property for at least five hundred years, is now in my possession. I should be sorry to suppose it the stolen and the precious casket of Ancient Charts, which Sir Peter tells us was *taken away*. But I own my heart leaps with a provincial Joy, when I reflect that accident has put it in my power to oblige my Countrymen with this *Opus Aureum*, this Golden Record; so infinitely superior to any Record now existing, either in the Archives or in the Annals of any other County in Great Britain. And if Parliament has thought it an object worthy of National Wisdom, to print the original *Domes-day* Book at the expence of the Public, which relates only to one single period of time¹—it is scarcely to be imagined, that the *generous good sense*, for which our County has been remarkable, would be inattentive to the public preservation of this invaluable Record; which faithfully registers the succession, not only of their Property, but of their Progenitors for such a length of Centuries.

But it is not only in the sensible Institution of *Domes-day* Book, that this our *inferior Monarchy* of Cheshire hath imi-

¹ The wisdom of parliament, a sessions or two ago, assigned 2000l. of the national money for the publication of *Domes-day* Book. And if this noble design is still unexecuted, it is owing to some difficulties in ascertaining the *best mode* of publication. The *Cheshire Domes-day*, if I may so call it, now in my possession, consists of two folio volumes, in a very small close hand.

tated the noble Example of its *Paramount*, and *Parent-Empire*. For if the latter had still another valuable Record, from the colour of its Cover, and the place of its Preservation, called the *Red Book of the Exchequer*¹; our *Empire of Cheshire* had equally its valuable Record, under the denomination of the *Red Book*. The Antiquity of this original Record is very great. It was once the possession of the Abbey of St. Werburgh's in Chester; is written upon parchment; and contains the Evidences of their Endowments, Copies of legal Proceedings out of Plea Rolls, their several transactions, and other authentic notices concerning this venerable Monastery. It is now very carefully preserved in the Archives of the Dean and Chapter.

Partly coeval with this Record, is a remarkable Manuscript, frequently quoted under the Title of *Annales Cestrienses*, or the *Chester Annals*. The Author of this Manuscript is unknown. It consists of Annals from the Birth of Christ to the Year 1255; and particularly recites many

“ ‘ There is also in the Keeping of the King's Remembrancer, an ancient Miscellany of several notable Treatises; which volume is commonly cited and called by the name of *Liber ruber Scaccarii*, or, the *Red Book of the Exchequer*. The Collector of the treatises in this book, is reasonably thought by Mr. Madox, to have been *Alexander de Swereford*, Archdeacon of Shrewsbury, and an officer in the Exchequer in the latter end of the reign of Henry the Second.”

Bp. Nicholson's Hist. Libr. edit. 1714, p. 213.

Historical

Historical Circumstances relative to Chester, with the renowned Acts of its Great Monarch, the famous Earl Randal.

This Monarch, Randal the Third, surnamed *Blundeville*¹, you, my dear Friend, perfectly know, was as celebrated in his time, as any of the Seven Champions of Christendom. And what is more, the famed story of his Atchievements, is as much founded in Truth, as that of the others is in Fable.--- Robert Sangland, or John Malverne-- for the Author is uncertain-- gives us a *pointed* Instance in what manner this mighty Earl was made the principal Hero of the Rhimes of those Days. He introduces an ignorant Monk attempting to chant Mass, and giving this excuse for his utter inability ;

“ I can not the *Pater Noster*, as the Priest it singeth ;

“ But I can Rhimes of Robin Hood, and *Randal of Chester*.

“ But of *our Lord* and *our Lady* I lerne nothing at all.

Next to the *Chester Annals*, in point of Time, is a *History of the Earldom of Chester*, collected by Archbishop Parker;² and deposited with his other Literary Treasures in Bennet College Library. The Title of it is--“ *de Successione Comitum Cestriae, a Hugone Lupo ad Johannem Scoticum.*” And it is so far faithful to its Title, as to contain the His-

¹ He was the Sixth Earl, or Monarch of Chester.

² Mathew Parker was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury Dec. 17, 1559.

tory and Atchievements of our Seven *Cestrian Monarchs*. Of this whole number how pleasing is it to reflect, that, agreeable to the genius and the manners of those Times, they were all of them patterns of Military Prowess ! And in respect of Acts of real Munificence, every single Monarch atchieved---“ Imperial Works and worthy Kings.”---The great Selden quotes this manuscript in his *Titles of Honour*, under the character of the *old History of the Earldom of Chester*.¹

If we are obliged however to the venerable Abbey of St. Werburgh's for the *Red Book* ; we are equally indebted to it for a learned Member of that Society, by the name of HENRY BRADSHAW. A sense of Gratitude to the Charitable Institution that gave him bread, produced a Poem in Honour of the tutelary Saint, to whom his Abbey was dedicated. Webb, in King's Vale-Royal, quotes ten stanzas of his Verses, and calls him---“ our best Antiquary”.² And Fuller, in his *Worthies of England*, gives us the following account of him---“ Henry Bradshaw was born in the City “ of Chester, and lived therein a *Benedictine*. He was a “ diligent Historian ; having written no *bad Chronicle*, and

¹ Page 729.

² Part 2d, page 25, line 16, and pages 9, 11, 25, 31, 32.

“ another Book, of the *Life of St. Werburgh*. He flourished about the year 1513.”

The Chronicle, my dear Friend, referred to by Fuller, has this Title--*De Antiquitate et Magnificentia Urbis Cestriae*; of the Antiquity and Magnificence of the City of Chester.--- But I must not conceal my doubts from you, that this *Chronicle of Bradshaw's*, and his *Life of St. Werburgh*, are in reality one and the same Work. John Pits, in his account of this Writer, tells us---“ that he is apt to believe his former labours were all swallowed up by another Work, “ *His Life of St. Werburgh*, which is still to be found in “ several of our Libraries².” And it something remarkable, that if these two were distinct Works, neither Leland nor Webb should quote his *Chronicle*, though so expressly to their purpose; whereas each of them gives us large Extracts from his *Life of St. Werburgh*.³ The one of these Writers too was the Cotemporary of Bradshaw; the other his Fellow Citizen, and of the same Century.---But whether these writings are the same, or distinct, Works; can your Historic Enquiries inform me---where these manuscripts, “ still remaining in several of our Libraries,” are in this age to be

¹ Page 290.

² Pits de Angl. Scriptor. page 690.

³ King ut Supra.—Leland Collectan. Vol. iii. page 58.

discovered

discovered? For it is most certain, they are neither in the Oxford nor the London Museum; neither do they lie concealed in that *Mine* of Learning, the Bodleian Library.

The remains of Bradshaw's Religious Asylum might be reasonably supposed to have afforded them a safe protection under its venerable roof; if the library of the Dean and Chapter had not been ineffectually ransacked for this purpose. The ingenious Author of the British Topography hath indeed told us---“That Bradshaw's Life in Verse of “the glorious Virgin St. Werburgh was printed at London “in Quarto 1521¹.” But I fear it was a Life of this *glorious Virgin*, composed by some inferior Author; and not the famous one in Metre of her grateful Votary, Henry Bradshaw. My Reasons are---that the æra of its publication 1521, is nearly coeval with the very æra of its existence. And besides, this circumstance is not only unknown to all our Writers, but the very inquisitive and very intelligent Bishop Nicholson speaks of it, as *still unpublished*, in the improved edition of his Historical Library, 1714².

It is however certainly true, that many parts of this celebrated Poem have frequently been transcribed by its fond admirers. And particularly I have in my possession several

¹ Page 119.

² Page 11.

of the---*disjecti Membra Poetæ*. He writ in Stanzas of seven verses each; frequently adding a couplet to the stanza, in order to round the period, and to complete the sense. As a sample of his Rhime---accept the Grand Charter of William the Conqueror to his nephew Hugh Lupus; by which he invested him with the Seignory and the Monarchy of Chester. And indulge me a few Observations upon this most extensive Act of Royal Munificence: not that these Observations can inform a mind like your's; but as this celebrated *Charter* formed the basis of our *Exclusive Rights*, and constituted the *grand Æra* of our Cheshire Empire.

THE ROYAL CHARTER OF THE CHESHIRE EMPIRE,

IN OLD ENGLISH METRE.

- " The King gave to him for his Inheritance
- " The *County* of *Chester* with its Appurtenance—
- " By Victory to win the aforefaid Earlidome,
- " Freely to govern it as by Conquest-Right;
- " Made a sure *Charter* to Him and his Succession,
- " By the *Sword* of *Dignity* to hold it with Might,
- " And to call a *Parliament* at his Will and Sight.
- " To order his Subjects after true Justice,
- " As a perpotent Prince, and Statutes to devise.
-
- " By Virtue of *this Grant* --- says the Great Antiquary
- " Camden' ---*Cheshire* enjoyed all *Sovereign Jurisdiction*

▪ Camden's Britannia, vol. i. page 662.

within

“ within its own precincts. And that, in so high a degree,
 “ that the *ancient Earls* had *Parliaments* of their own Ba-
 “ rons,¹ and Tenants; and were not obliged by the *English*
 “ *Acts of Parliament*. These high, and otherwise unac-
 “ countable Jurisdictions, were thought necessary upon the
 “ *Marches*, and borders of the Kingdom; as investing the
 “ governors of those provinces with *Dictatorial* Power, and
 “ enabling them more effectually to subdue the common
 “ enemies of the Nation.”---And agreeable to these *high*
powers, when the style in all legal proceedings of the Courts
 at Westminster ran, *Contra Coronam et Dignitatem Regis*; in
 our County Palatine these *pleas* were constantly expressed
contra Dignitatem Gladii Cestrie.

This famous *Sword of Dignity* is still remaining in the
 British Museum. It is in length about four feet; and so
 unweildy, as to be brandished with great difficulty by a very
 strong man with both his hands. The blade is two-edged, and
 has this inscription immediately beneath the hilt---Hugo

¹ Every Baron had four Esquires, every Esquire had one Gentleman, and
 every Gentleman one Valet for their Attendants—*Erdeswicke's Manuscripts*.

The Barons too had their *free Courts* for all pleas and suits, except those belong-
 ing to the *dignity of the Earl's Sword*; and they had power of Life and Death.
 The last instance of this power was exerted in the person of Hugh Stringer, who
 was tried for murder in the Baron of Kinderton's Court, and executed 1597, the
 39th of Queen Elizabeth.

Comes Cestriæ; the hilt itself is decorated with pearls. But as a draught of it would have shamed all description; you must blame an ingenious Artist, for not having executed in proper time a designed engraving, from a very elegant drawing in my possession.

But before I conclude this article of *Hugh Lupus's Charter*, permit me to remind you, that the surname of one of his first Barons, and the *lineal dignity* of another,¹ is still preserved in the Right Honourable George Venables Vernon, Lord Vernon, BARON OF KINDERTON. And however light our Cheshire Honours may appear at present; yet I am sure your good sense cannot avoid remarking---that while Lord Vernon enjoys his *Modern Honours* in common with many of his Peers; with regard to his *ancient* Barony of Kinderton, he is most honourably and singularly *Peerless*.

This digression, my dear Friend, from the account of our Historical Collectors, I am afraid you will imagine to

¹ Ricardus de *Vernon* Baro de Shipbrok.—Gilbertus Venables Baro de Kinderton. Whose *direct lineal* descendant, Peter Venables, Baron of Kinderton, died without issue male towards the conclusion of the last century. His dowager, the Baroness of Kinderton, survived him to the year 1717; and they both lie buried in the same grave in the chancel of the church of Middlewich.—The present George Venables Vernon, Lord Vernon, Baron of Kinderton, is a lineal descendant by the female side.

be tedious. But I have so frequently hazarded the seemingly pompous expression, of the---MONARCHY, and the EMPIRE of CHESHIRE ; that unless I had produced some authentic vouchers for the truth and propriety of this expression, I might have appeared rather to have written with the bombast of *Bays* in the Rehearsal, than to have preserved the grave fidelity of a Relater of Facts.

I shall now therefore proceed with my *Sketch of the Materials*, for a future History of our Important County ; and shall endeavour to present you with a chronological series of those Literary Sons of our *Mater alma Cestriensis*---if you will allow me this expression of filial Fondness---who have reflected Honour upon their native soil, by studiously preserving any memorials of her ancient glory.---And in the first place, let me here commemorate the laudable example of WILLIAM ALDERSEY, *Mayor of Chester* in 1560 : Who finding the list of his predecessors in that office to be most exceedingly defective and confused, ordered a *new and exact Arrangement* of them to be made, with infinite pains, fidelity, and expence. We may easily judge how corrupt and imperfect their registers were before ; when the name of *Alano de Whetley* never once occurred in them, though he had served the office of Mayor at least in *four* several periods of time. And indeed the very great and material difference
that

that appears in the separate *Lists of these Magistrates*, given us by Smith and Webb -- our next collectors -- is a plain indication of the extreme corruption that had vitiated and defaced their Journals.

Our next Historical Collectors, as I have just mentioned to you, were two *Natives of Cheshire*, WILLIAM SMITH and WILLIAM WEBB; who gleaned up their celebrated Memorials of the ancient Glory of our Palatinate almost two hundred years ago. Though their labours have been consecrated to posterity hand in hand¹, yet *Smith* is rather prior to *Webb* in point of time. He was a Pursuivant at Arms, by the style and title of *Rouge Dragon*; and appears to have made his collections about the year 1590. A copy of these Collections was entrusted to the faithful preservation of Sir Ranulph Crew, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench; and the attentive regard of Mr. Ranulph Crew, his Lordship's grandson, for the honour of learning, and his native County, rescued this copy from its not dishonourable concealment, into that distinguished station which it has since enjoyed.---William Smith's literary and antiquarian associate, *William Webb*, had a learned education in our celebrated University of Oxford; where he took

¹ Their united labours, form the Bulk of King's Vale-Royal, published in Folio 1656.

the regular degree of Master of Arts'. He had always a turn and passion for *Letters*; though the -- *Res angusta Domi* -- the narrowness of his circumstances, obliged him to submit to the disagreeable drudgery of being many years clerk in the Mayor's Court at Chester; and in the year 1615, he served the office of *Under-Sheriff* to Sir Richard Lea, of Lea and Dernhale, Knt. At this time he was between fifty and sixty years of age; and most probably made his Collections some where about 1600. Very fortunately for the public, these Collections, like those of *Smith's*, were rescued from their concealment, by the favourable patronage of Sir Simon Archer, of Tamworth in the County of Warwick, Knt. a great admirer of our National Antiquities.

But before I finally take my leave of our two present Collectors, I must communicate an anecdote to you about *William Webb*, which is much to his credit as a writer; and yet is almost obscured with the Mantle of Oblivion.--- If you ever attended, my dear Friend, to the stile of his Itinerary through the several Hundreds, you will observe a Poetic Manner in his Diction. In one place he favours us

¹ I have very great reason to believe he was a Member of our then newly founded College of Brazen-Nose. But the printed Catalogues of our Oxford Graduates, go no higher than 1659.

H

with

with the conclusion of an encomium upon Sir Hugh Cholmondeley in Latin and English verse, and in another with some stanzas upon a grandson of Sir John Savage; both compositions professedly his own. But I dare engage, you are entirely ignorant, that this said *William Webb*, “here-
 “ tofore a clerk in the Mayor’s Court at Chester, and some
 “ time Under-Sheriff to Sir Richard Lea,” hath left us in Print, a very pleasing, ingenious, and sensible account of the beauties and defects of English poetry¹; which he composed soon after he had taken his regular degree of Master of Arts.

Having mentioned the benevolent hands that rescued these perishing memorials from oblivion; I ought not to conceal from you, that DANIEL KING, a native of our Palatinate, was the person they made choice of to give them birth. *King* had travelled into foreign parts; where he acquired the ingenious accomplishments of *engraving* and *surveying*. And by the help of these, his acquired talents, he has embellished his Work with a variety of useful, curious, and ornamental Sculptures.---A cotemporary writer pays him this compliment upon his *creative* and *preserving* talent of *engraving*---“ That in process of time, he

¹ The title runs thus: “ A Discourse of English Poetry: together with the
 “ Author’s Judgement touching the Reformation of our English Verse.—By
 “ William Webb, Graduate.—Imprinted at London, by John Charlewood,
 “ Quarto, 1586.”

“ hoped

“ hoped Daniel King might outstrip the piety of king Edgar ; erecting more Abbies in *brass*, than this Monarch did in *stone* ; though he is said to have built as many as there were days in the year.” And he concludes with this encomium in metre---

“ KINGUS CESTRENSI, CESTRENSIS-PATRIA KINGO,

“ *Lucem, alternatim, debet uterque suam.*

“ CHESHIRE TO KING, and KING TO CHESHIRE, OWES

“ His *Light* ; since each *receives*, what each *bestows*.¹

But after all these extravagant encomiums, if the *Obstetric* Hand of Daniel King had reduced the *unformed Embrio-Collections* of Smith and Webb, into some regularity of form and shape ; by reducing the two parts into a methodical series of history---this publication might have reflected rays of splendor upon our illustrious County. Whereas KING'S-VALE-ROYAL, in its present state of confusion, notwithstanding its *pompous title*, and notwithstanding it sells for *four guineas*, is neither more nor less than what I have already told you---a mere *farrago* of valuable materials. And, what is worse for the public, he has not only transposed some parts of the original labours of his two Authors, but he has published from a very defective copy ; since I have in my possession an AUTHENTIC MANUSCRIPT of this

¹ Fuller's Worthies of England, page 184.

Work, infinitely more full, and more exact, than even the *printed Book of Daniel King*.¹

Upon this last article, my dear Friend, I have rather been diffusively minute; especially too, as the memorials of our Palatinate already published are no part of my professed design in this Letter. But since the *whole merit* of these two *deserving* Collectors has been entirely absorbed by the infinitely *less meritorious* name of KING; I was willing to preserve some Anecdotes, of one of them at least, not generally known. And I was besides desirous of pointing out a much more correct, and much more improved edition of this Work---*If the Great English Blood of Cheshire chief of Men* should have unhappily contracted those infirmities of old age,² as to have

¹ Sir William Dugdale is so far from passing any extravagant encomiums upon our publisher and countryman, *King*; that he calls him a *most ignorant, silly knave*. But I hope the worthy Knight means *knave*, in the *antiquated* English sense of, *fellow*, or *servant*. The old English translation of the Bible has, "Paul the *knave* of Jesus Christ."—And if we may believe the best commentators upon Virgil, this correct Poet uses the Latin word, *fur*, in the precise sense of our *antiquated* word, *knave*—

Quid Domini facient, audent cum talia Fures?

Ecloga iii. ver. 16.

² ———Gelidus, tardante senectâ,
Hebet Sanguis, frigentque effætæ in Corpore Vires,

Virg. Æn. v. ver. 395.

ren—

rendered them cold and indifferent to such a future History of their PALATINATE, as may in some measure be equal to the grandeur of the design, and to the illustrious subject it is to treat of.

But now I have taken my leave of this famous *Literary Triumvirate*--I scarcely know where to turn myself. For the example and encouragement of our great Antiquaries, CAMDEN, COTTON, and SPELMAN, had raised such an enthusiastic passion for the study of our Antiquities about this æra--- that, with your leave, I might almost venture to call it the *Augustan Age* of Antiquarian Writers. And indeed, several of those I am now going to commemorate, were rather Cotemporaries to our last Collectors, and to each other; than by any means capable of being reduced to a regular series of Chronological Succession.

Coeval then with the preceding, was LAURENCE BOSTOKE; or, as he usually stiled himself, from the place of his birth, and habitation--*de Bostoke*.¹--- This local name having distinguished one of the first families in the County.---The materials he has left behind him are extremely valuable;

¹ "The river *Dan* then runs by Bostock; the ancient seat of the noble and knightly family of the Bostocks. Whose vast estates passed to John Savage, by a marriage with Anne, grand-daughter of Sir Adam de *Bostock*, Knight."
—Camden's *Britan.* vol. i. page 677.—Laurence always spelt his name *Bostoke*.

and are contained in one Folio Volume, closely written, in a very bad hand. The Articles are Miscellaneous ; *Descents, Pedigrees, Notes of Families, Extracts from old Deeds and Records* ; and, what is above all, *an accurate Visitation of most of our Churches before that sacrilegious Destruction in the Civil War.* Whatever was remarkable here, he has attempted to delineate. But he was a bad draughtsman ; and though his designs may be faithful representations, yet they are by no means the Work of any Artist.

Cotemporary with *Laurence de Bostoke* was SAMPSON ERDESWICKE ; who about the year 1553 laid the foundations of his future learning in a College at Oxford, which, you and I, shall always remember with respect and veneration. Properly speaking, he is the great Antiquary of *Staffordshire* ; not barely as being a native, but as having principally collected for that County. The survey of this, his native soil, has appeared in print ; with an account of *Beeston Castle in Cheshire*, annexed to it. But that he designed us larger views, he himself assures us ; and that in part he executed these views, the *collections* he has left behind him amply testify. In his printed survey, he thus expresses himself to a friend--“ Having disposed with myself
“ to take a further view of the shires of Stafford and Che-
“ shire, according to promise ; I have set down what I
“ have

“ have found, or can yet learn.”---And these *Cheshire Discoveries*, or at least part of them, are still preserved in two pretty thick quarto, and two octavo manuscripts. The contents of these volumes, like those of Laurence Bostoke, are miscellaneous. They are *Descents, Pedigrees, Notes of Families, a Villare of the whole County, the Names of all those who held in Capite, with the ancient Revenue of the Palatinate*; and, to crown all---a variety of *Extracts from ancient Charters, relative to the several Grants of MANORS*; to which he has affixed very fair draughts of an infinite number of CURIOUS SEALS.

But having mentioned the *Nursing-College* that supplied Erdeswicke with the *Milk* of polite Literature -- will you permit me to give you an Anecdote, of the first Existence of our Literary Parent; which--agreeable to a former expression--is entirely obscured by the Mantle of Oblivion, even within the *circle of her own family*? The founders of *Brazen-Nose College*, you know, were WILLIAM SMITH, Bishop of Lincoln, and Sir RICHARD SUTTON. The latter of whom could pride himself with *William of Wickham*¹, that if he was not himself a man of learning, he was determined to be the *Means* of instilling it into others. And indeed the several *Preservers* of the *ancient Glory* of our Palatinate,

¹ Founder of New College Oxford.

whom

whom I am now commemorating; and, who were the ACADEMICAL *Sons of Science*, imbibed the elements of polite Literature, in this our venerable Seminary, equally with Sampson Erdeswicke. The anecdote then is this; that the Bishop *singly* formed the Design, and Plan of our much-respected College. But, upon exchanging this transitory for an immortal Life, soon after he had laid the foundations of it; he entrusted the final Completion of his grand Intentions to his *Executor* Sir Richard Sutton¹. Who, with the *enlarged soul* of a *Man of Cheshire*, faithfully executed his trust, by at least *doubling* the Bishop's bounty. And by this act of magnificence has given rise to the following Address in verse, from the *supposed* piety of his adopted child---

" *Begun* by One, but *finished* by Another;
 " SUTTON he was my *Nurse*; but SMITH my *Mother*.
 " Or if the phrase more proper seem, say rather—
 " That SUTTON was my *Guardian*, SMITH my *Father*.

" 'Cause

1 " In the hundred of Macclesfield lies *Sutto* which gave *name*, and hath
 " continued to be the seat of a family of great worth and worship, the *Suttons*.
 " Of this house of *Sutton*, was that ever famous knight, and great patron of
 " learning, Sir RICHARD SUTTON, one of the founders of the famous College
 " of *Brazen-Nose* in Oxford. Where, by his bounty, much of our *Cheshire*-
 " youth receive most worthy education in all good learning and true religion."

Vale-Royal, part 2d. page 86.

- “ ’Cause *equal Kindness* they to me exprest,
 “ Better I *neither* love ; or, *both* the best.
 “ If *Both* they may be call’d, who had *One will* ;
 “ What *One design’d*, the *Other* did *fulfill*.”

The warm feelings of your own heart will, I know, forgive me these *supposed* over-flowings of *filial Fondness* from our honoured College, to her *Munificent* and *Literary-Parents*. And I must be lost myself to every tender, and every refined emotion---if the inestimable Benefits of an ingenuous education did not bind me, by all the ties of gratitude, to commemorate the liberality of those hands, which have dealt out to me these inestimable Benefits. Neither, I am sure, will the *Men of Cheshire* imagine any pious Memorials of Sir Richard Sutton, *foreign* to the Design of a History of their County. Since his fostering “Bounty daily contributes to the
 “ Instruction of many of their *Cheshire Youth*, in all good
 “ learning, and true religion.” And, as I have already hinted, he has more particularly been the Means of training up in the *Groves of Science*,² every ACADEMICAL *Preserver* of the ancient Glory of their Palatinate.

¹ Fuller’s *Worthies of England*, page 182 ; who says, he received his intelligence from his “good Friend, Dr. YATES, Principal of Brazen-Nose.”—A *Cheshire Man* of such Munificence, as to have deserved from his Society the Epithet of—TERTIUS, *tantum non*, FUNDATOR.

² —Inter *Silvas Academi* quarere Verum. HOR.

To proceed then in my *Chronological Series*---With *Erdeswicke* and *Bostock*, RALFE STARKIE was Cotemporary ; of the family of the *Starkies* of *Stretton* ; a STATESMAN, a POET, and an ANTIQUARY. His two first characters do not so immediately concern us ; though, what can be a stronger evidence of the powers of the human mind, than to see the abilities of a *Burleigh*, a *Spencer*, and a *Camden*, all united in the same person !---The Antiquarian Collections of his, still remaining, are the following : *Rolls of Cheshire Families*, 1595 ; *a Book of Alphabetical References to these Rolls* ; and *a Book of References to Mr. Erdeswicke's Cheshire Manuscripts*. He has besides given us, *all the ROYAL GRANTS of our PALATINATE-IMMUNITIES* ; and *an exact Account of all the Imports and Exports from the Harbour of Chester, during five years of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth,*¹ *with the Amount of the Revenue arising from these Port Duties.*---His *Legacy*, however, of *Cheshire Collections*, would certainly have been more extensive, if the jealousy of *James the First* had not issued a Warrant² for the seizure of all Mr. *Starkie's State Papers* ; and, amongst these, many of his *Antiquarian* ones perished. Sir Thomas Wilson, Secretary of State, who executed this Warrant, certifies the seizure of so large a number as 45 Pacquets of Mr. *Starkie's Papers*.

¹ From the 20th, to the 26th.

² August 14th, 1619.

You will naturally remark the very *particular* number that was certified. But these *hackneyed Figures*, my dear Friend, had not at that time been elevated above the *innocent Insignificance* of their *Peers*, by the unhappy Lunacy of Party, and that Distraction of the Times which is so greatly to be lamented.---Whether you remark it, however, or not, as I have mentioned our Antiquary in *two* of his superior characters, permit me to speak of him in his *third*; and to give you a single stanza from his historical, political, and moral Poem, addressed to his mistress, Queen Elizabeth? The principal subject is the melancholy reign of Edward the Second; whose Ghost is supposed to recount his several misfortunes in 581 stanzas---

“ Why, shou’d a wasted spirit spent in woe,
 “ Disclose the wounds receiv’d within his breast?
 “ Is’t not enough, that Fortune proves his Foe,
 “ In whose sad frowns is folded his un-rest?
 “ Is’t not enough, to know himself distressed?—
 “ Oh! no; furcharged hearts must needs complain:
 “ Some Ease it is, though small, to tell our Pain.”

I have given you this specimen divested of its antiquated spelling. And I must not conceal from you, for the honour of our Antiquary, that this Poem has, *in one Instance*, been attributed to the great Spencer. It is mentioned with a *perhaps*;

perhaps; but it is most untruly conjectural. The Poem is in Mr. Starkie's own hand writing; it has never been even *surmised* as Spencer's, by the several writers of his Life; and a copy of it is now existing, with a variety of alterations and additions, to move the compassion of James the First. The Author styles himself, *Infortunio* :---as being the unfortunate Ralfe Starkie, that in 1619 had unhappily incurred the displeasure of this jealous monarch; who ascended the Throne of *England* at least four years after the death of Edmund Spencer, which happened about 1588.

RALFE STARKEY, you will find to be a name favourable to our Antiquities. For I have now in my own possession, a very curious HERALDICAL MANUSCRIPT, *formed from all the Visitations then in Being; with fair draughts of old Seals, Coats, Arms, and Devices.* In the first page is the following Remark---“ This Book is augmented in very many
“ places out of Mr. *Sampson Erdeswicke, Moth,* and other
“ good Gatherings, by me *Ralfe Starkey* of London, mer-
“ chant; second son of John Starkey of Olton, in the
“ County of Chester, Esqr. 1610---A lineal descent of
which family has been left us by his name-sake, *the Anti-
quary,* under the description of the family of Starkey of
Darley, or Olton-Lowe.’

1 “ Starkies is at Dorle, a v miles from Northwich, a scant mile from
“ Oldeton, and a 3 miles from Vale-Royal.”---Leland's Itin. vol. vii. p. 32.

The

The next Collector, is, ROGER WILCOXON, a Member of the College of Arms ; who has left us two accurate manuscripts in folio, relative to the HERALDICAL HISTORY OF CHESHIRE. He compiled these volumes from every authentic Voucher, and every original Record, he could have recourse to. And, in order to illustrate these his *Genealogical Tables*, he has preserved a great variety of *Inquisitions post mortem*, *Draughts of Arms in our ancient Mansions*, and of *Seals appendant to old Deeds* ; with many remarkable *Extracts from the private Evidences of Families*.---But all these several delineations are executed with such an elegance and exactness, as characterize Mr. Wilcoxon a complete draughtsman ; and I speak this with the more confidence, because the larger of the two volumes is now in my possession.

Our succeeding, or rather *still* cotemporary, Collectors form a family *Harmonic-Trio* ; a father, son, and grandson, of the surname of CHALONER, and of the several Christian names, THOMAS, JACOB, and JAMES. Thomas was an Arms-painter in Chester about 1594 ; he knew the value of learning sufficiently to give his son a better education than he had received himself. And this son followed the same occupation in Chester, and made Collections, about the year 1620. But it was James, the grandson, who reflected the

L

greatest

greatest credit upon his family, by a very concise, accurate, and sensible account of the Isle of Man, printed at the end of King's-Vale-Royal in 1656. He laid the foundations of a learned education in our much-honoured College; and when the parliament invested Lord Fairfax with the seignory of *Man*, he was one of his Lordship's three Commissioners for settling the affairs of that island.

The ANTIQUARIAN COLLECTIONS of all three are valuable. But if a drop of water bears no proportion to the great ocean, it is not to be wondered at, that they should be included and lost in the immensity of that collection which follows.--- This too was formed by another family *Harmonic-Trio*; a father, son, and grandson, of the surname of HOLME or HOLMES, and all three of the Christian name of RANDAL. Take them for all in all, they were perhaps three of the most extraordinary, and the most pains-taking men that ever existed. Though of the same occupation with the Chaloners, they lived in the utmost degree of amity with them. Though in rather low circumstances, they received the greatest marks of honour and respect from their fellow citizens.

• Randal Holmes, the elder, was Mayor of Chester in 1633; and had the peculiar felicity of seeing his son Sheriff the same year. Randal, the son, was Mayor in 1643; and hath left speeches upon record, both on his entering into office, and on his quitting it. Randal, the grandson, was Sheriff of Chester in 1705.

And

And though untinged almost with letters, they have left the most noble Collection of Antiquarian Learning, for one single County, ever formed by Man.---To particularise this collection, would be writing a volume, rather than a letter. Suffice it, my dear Friend, to tell you, that their LITERARY LABOURS for our Palatinate *only*, exceed the almost incredible number of 268 LARGE VOLUMES.---A collection of this nature is rather suited to a general Topographical History of all England, than to one single County. And amidst this immense Literary Variety--this *dubia cæna* of Antiquarianism,--it would really have been distressing to have selected materials, if two *Names* of great Learning and Abilities, had not already exerted themselves, in forming a very sensible and accurate Epitome of this Collection.

The first was a physician; Dr. EDWARD WILLIAMSON. Who has digested the essence of this vast mass into a regular *Compend*, under the title of VILLARE CESTRIENSE. It is first of all ranged under the general head of Hundreds, and then under the lesser one of Parishes. And whatever is curious and intelligent in the original papers, has been carefully preserved by the abridger in a very thick quarto volume. The other Epitomizer was a divine; Dr. FRANCIS GASTREL, Canon of Christ Church in Oxford, and Bishop of our Diocese of Chester. A name, great in the knowledge of
Theology

Theology, and of our national Antiquities. His abridgement is stiled NOTITIA CESTRIENSIS. But the arrangement of this Notitia, is rather an *Ecclesiastical*, than a *Civil* one. It relates to the whole Diocese ; is divided under the general head of Archdeaconries, the lesser one of Deanries, and the still less division of Parishes.---Great, however, as the merit of his Lordship was, it has been rendered still greater, in being the happy, and the fortunate instrument of preserving these invaluable papers. The executors of Randal Holmes, the grandson, offered them in sale to the Corporation of Chester. But as the treasury here, I suppose, was not rich ; they might perhaps have gone into the market,¹ to have *embalmed* even *frankincense* and *odours*, if his Lordship had not purchased them for the noble library of the then Earl of Oxford ; and, eventually, for the mighty emolument of the public.

Now we are speaking of *Bishops of Chester*, I must remind you of Two ; who, by their Collections, have been ornaments to the see. Dr. JOHN BRIDGEMAN in 1619, and Dr. NICHOLAS STRATFORD in 1689. The first hath left behind him, *a very accurate Account of the Revenues and Endowments of the Church*, in a large folio volume ; which

¹ Deferor in Vicum, vendentem *Thus* et *Odores*. HOR.,

goes

goes under the title of BISHOP BRIDGEMAN'S LEDGER. And he drew up a most excellent scheme for the revival of Ecclesiastical Discipline and Order in his Diocese; after that scene of anarchy and confusion which had been occasioned by the civil wars.---The Collections of the other consist of *Original Letters*; which demonstrate his Lordship to have been a man of consummate business, candour, judgement, and resolution. We are indebted for their preservation to the care of that great Antiquary, Bishop Tanner;¹ and I am happy in having a transcript of them in my possession.

For the sake of arranging these three ornaments of our Church together, I have been guilty of the Anachronism of a few years. I must therefore return, to celebrate the names of CATHERALL, VERNON, BRERETON, BOOTH, and ASHMOLE, as CHESHIRE COLLECTORS.---The family of *Catherall* or *Caterall* is of Derbyshire; and has run through the several names of Bulkeley and Bird. What has been left us under this family name, is comprised in a folio volume with the following title---“CATERALL'S BOOK, *of the Antiquity and Gentry of Cheshire.*”

Mr. WILLIAM VERNON is one of our best Antiquaries. He lived at Shakerley in Lancashire, about the year 1630;

¹ Thomas Tanner was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph, Jan. 23, 1731-2.

but having considerable property at *Hulme* in *Cheshire*, he collected principally for the HISTORY of our PALATINATE. His Books of Antiquarian Researches appear, with some degree of probability, to have been so numerous, as to have for their marks of distinction the several letters of the alphabet. Liber C, D, and R, or at least the substance of them, are in being. But whether the others are perished, or rather, whether they ever existed, is at this time of day uncertain.---The materials, that compose these remaining Books, are very valuable. They consist of, *Extracts from diverse remarkable Deeds of the ancient Earls of Chester; Extracts from other authentic Instruments, and original Records; Descents and Anecdotes of Families; with a variety of curious Particulars relative to several Towns and Parishes in the County.*---That his Intelligence, in these respects, might be the more accurate and complete, Mr. Vernon was indefatigable in his enquiries; and he has very gratefully preserved the names of those *Cheshire Gentlemen*,¹ who favoured him with any material information.

¹ *Merburie* of *Merburie*, *Dutton* of *Dutton*, Sir Edmund Fitton, John Milington, Peter Daniel, William Harecourt, John Oldfield, Downes of Shrigley, Cotton of Cotton, Sir John Davenport, John Booth, and Henry Manwaring of the Tower of London.

Sir WILLIAM BRERETON, of Honford, is a Collector only by Accident. He represented our County in the Long Parliament. And though he had been a Royal Ward, yet he bore arms against his Guardian and Sovereign, by accepting the Post of General of the Parliament-Forces, in Cheshire, and the adjoining Counties.---My Lord Clarendon,¹ in several parts of his History, has strongly and accurately marked the different Genius of the two Parties at that Time. The Royalists were open, incautious, dissipated, and intrepid. The Parliamentarians, were close, wary, sober in their manners, and extremely attentive to every opportunity of advantage. Of this we have the strongest proof in the JOURNALS of Sir *William Brereton*; a very accomplished gentleman, and, upon the whole, very unexceptionable in his command. There is scarcely a circumstance during the four years he was General, that he did not commit to writing; and not even a single letter appears to have been penned, of which he did not preserve a copy. The fruits of this indefatigable industry are collected into FIVE FOLIO VOLUMES; written in a small, but very fair hand. And I am sufficiently happy in calling myself the owner of these volumes.

¹ History of the Rebellion, 8vo. vol. iii. pag. 345, *et passim*.

Cocval with Sir William Brereton, was Mr. JOHN BOOTH of Twamlowe; a very intelligent, and careful Collector.--- The sensible *Author of Bucklow Hundred* had the free use of his Materials; and he has preserved the nature of their contents, by making frequent references to their authority. In one place he calls them---¹ “ John Booth of Twamlow’s, “ Book of Pedigrees ;” and in another---² “ John Booth of “ Twamlow’s Book of his own Collections.”---After this Account of them, any thing further from my pen becomes unnecessary. And I shall only add, that the present Mr. Booth of Twamlowe, with a civility and an obligingness usual to him, has promised me the liberal use of his Ancestors Collections.

We come next to ELIAS ASHMOLE. A Name conspicuous in the Republick of Letters; as having been the munificent Founder of the Museum at Oxford. We owe his Collections to a Visitation of this County by the celebrated Dugdale; afterwards Sir William, and at that time Norroy King at Arms. The friendship of Ashmole, for his future father-in-law, influenced him to accompany Dugdale in this Visitation. And his Thirst after Knowledge, and Antiquities, has exerted itself during this Visit, in preserving a great Variety of very curious Particulars.---*The Draughts*

¹ Page 218, line 16.

² Page 257, line 31.

of ancient Seals, Arms, Monuments, and Fenestral Antiquities,--both CIVIL and SACRED—he hath bequeathed us; are in reality so many elegant pictures, as well as so many faithful representations. And the remains of that most superb mansion of the Delves's at Doddington, would have conveyed to us very little idea of its ancient grandeur, if some parts of it had not still existed, by the means of Ashmole's immortalizing pencil.

There is a groupe, however, of noble *Statues* still remaining there, which are too splendidly glorious in themselves, and too much for the honour of our Palatinate, to be passed over in silence. I mean those of the valiant *Lord Audley*, and his *four* celebrated *Esquires*. My Lord Audley's is most probably an original one; but I should suppose the other four to be rather coeval with the æra of this superb mansion; the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. These statues are as large as life; and are supposed to represent *Delves* of *Doddington*, *Dutton* of *Dutton*, *Foulshurst* of *Crewe*¹, and *Hawkeston* of *Wrine-Hill*.---Though this last,

¹ A very fine Altar-Tomb of Alabaster to the Memory of a *Foulshurst* of *Crewe*; and, Tradition says,—this very *Foulshurst*—is still remaining in the chancel of *Bartomley Church* in *Cheshire*. The recumbent effigy upon the tomb, in complete armour at full length, is visibly of the same age with the statue of Lord Audley. And to you, my Friend, pleased remembrance obliges me to add;—that in these peaceful shades of *Bartomley*, I passed the happy innocence of childhood.

as well as Lord Audley, had possessions in Staffordshire--- yet, properly speaking, they were *All Five, Men of Cheshire*, by birth, family, and inheritance. It was principally owing to the value of these illustrious warriors, that our most puissant Hero, Edward the Black Prince, *Earl of Chester*, gained the immortal battle of Poitiers, in the year 1356. ---The particulars of Lord Audley's Exploits, in that battle, are thus related by our Historians---

“ But the most remarkable instance of Honour, and Valour, was the Lord James Audley ; who, having vowed to be the *foremost* of the battle, performed his word, and confirmed it with many wounds ; for which the Prince having rewarded him with five hundred marks a year, Fee-Simple in England, he presently gave it to four of his Esquires, who had underwent the same dangers with him. The Prince knowing it, asked him---Whether he did not accept his gift ? He answered, *Yes ! but those Men had deserved it as well as he had himself ; and had more need of it.* The Prince was pleased with this reply, and gave him five hundred marks more ; as if he resolved, that so much worth should not go unrewarded.”---And my Lord Audley, as a further and *perpetual* memorial of their merit, enjoined them to bear in some part of their

¹ Complete History of England, vol. i. page 226.

*Coat of Arms, his own proper Atchievement---*GULES A FRET OR.---Which honourable injunction, has been constantly observed by these *four distinguished Families*.

But you must not imagine, my dear Friend, that this illustrious instance of *Cheshire Prowess, and Cheshire Heroism*, is a *singular* one in the Annals of English History. Since the genuine character of our County, has been as much marked for MARTIAL GLORY, as for *unbounded Hospitality*. And if you mistrust that *partial* fondness which arises from the place of our Nativity, and which always plays around the human heart; pray take the unbiaſſed sentiments of that admired Poet, *Michael Drayton*¹; who thus celebrates the ROYAL Magnanimity of our *Palatinate---*

“ Of all our *Counties*, SHE, the place of *Palatine* doth hold;

“ And *thereto* hath her HIGH REGALITIES enroll’d.

“ Besides in many *Fields*, since *Conquering William* came,

“ Her *People* she hath prov’d, to her *eternal Fame*.

“ All, *Children* of her own, the *Leader* and the *Led*;

“ The mightiest Men of Bone, in her full Bosom bred²:

And the same Poet, in a succeeding stanza, ingenuously confesses---that the conquest of the Imperial Crown of

¹ “ Michael Drayton was born at Hartshill in the Parish of Atherston in Warwickshire, 1563.” *Biogr. Britan.*

² Poly-Olb. song xi, ver. 10, et seq.

France,

France, was chiefly owing to the *Bills* and *Bows* of the hardy *Cheshire Yeomanry*---

- “ Their *Yeomanry*, THEY still, endeavoured to uphold :
 “ For rightly, whilst *Herself*, BRAVE ENGLAND was of old ;
 “ And our *courageous Kings*, Us forth, to *Conquest* led,
 “ Our Armies in those Times—ne’er thro’ the World so dread !—
 “ Of our *tall Yeomen*, were, and *Footmen*, for the most ;
 “ Who, with their *Bills* and *Bows*, may confidently boast,
 “ Our LEOPARDS¹, they so long, and bravely, did advance
 “ Above the FLOW’R DE LYS ; even in the *Heart of France*².

And among the number of those *Cheshire Heroes* of Antiquity, who have planted the *Banners of England* even in the very *Heart of France* ; the names of Sir *Hugh Calvely*, and Sir *Robert Knowles* are much too illustrious in our *Annals* to be omitted. The great *Camden* thus characterises the first of them---“ At some further distance, on the west
 “ side of the river *Weever*, stands *Calveley* ; which has given
 “ both *seat* and *name* to that noble family, the *Calveley*’s.
 “ Of whom, in *Richard the Second*’s time, was Sir *Hugh de*
 “ *Calveley* ; who, in *France*, had the reputation of so vali-
 “ ant a soldier, that *nothing* was held *impregnable* to his

¹ Poly-Olb. song xi. ver. 27, et seq.

² “ He well calls the *Coat of England*, *Leopards*.—*Lions* and *Leopards* in princely
 “ *Acceptation* have been taken indifferently.”—*Selden’s Notes on Poly-Olb.*

“ *courage*

“*courage and conduct*’.”---And it was not only, in the Field of Battle, that we find him this *invincible* commander. Since the QUEEN OF ARRAGON became captivated by his *irresistible* Attractions, and resigned her hand to his, at the Altar of Hymen; as the joint quartering of their *united Arms* upon Sir *Hugh’s Tomb* incontestibly confirms.

But however celebrated Sir *Hugh Calveley* may be in the Records of Military Fame; he is at least equalled by his valiant affociate, Sir *Robert Knowles*. Who was advanced, from the rank of a common soldier, to the most *distinguished station*, by that excellent judge of military merit, our renowned Edward the Third. The faith of History represents the Atchievements of Sir Robert, almost in the stile and manner of Romantic Chivalry---“that when he commanded in France, under our puissant Monarch, he drove the enemy before him like Flocks of Sheep; and battered down their Citadels into such *spiry* and *forked* Ruins, that for several years afterwards they went by the name of *Knowles’s Mitres*.” His last act of prowess was the sup-

¹ Camden’s Britannia, vol. i. page 675.

Five several instances of the most Heroic Atchievements of this Sir *Hugh Calveley*, are recorded by Fuller in his *Worthies of England*, page 179.

pression of *Wat Tyler*. And then, full of years and glory, he resigned his breath to a *superiour Enemy*, the Great Conqueror of Human Nature¹; leaving behind him this accomplished Character :---That his *Charity* was equal to his *Valour*; and that he was as much endeared to the *English*, as he was dreaded by the *French*.

But it is not only the *Gallic Nation* which has had reason to dread the Valour of our *Countrymen*; the *Scots* too, may rue the day, wherein they experienced the irresistible force and power of *their Arms*. For when Lord Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset, vanquished the Scotch Army and took their CAPITAL, in that rapid expedition which he made into the Heart of Scotland---he thought the gallant behaviour of the *Cheeshire Soldiers* entitled them to some superiour marks of Honour and Distinction. And he accordingly *knighted eighteen Gentlemen* of that County, upon the

¹ Aug. 15, 1407.—His Acts of Charitable Munificence, are the following : The stone bridge at Rochester in Kent, with a chapel and chantry at the east end of it; a college and hospital at Pontefract in Yorkshire, which he endowed with 180l. per Annum; and a hospital at Rome for the entertainment of English Pilgrims.——Lambert's Kent, Edit. 1596, page 392. Weaver's Fun. Mon. page 436. Fuller's Worth. page 179.

very spot, which had so lately been the witness of their valour¹.

Here, my dear Friend, I could have wished to have finally completed the career of their Military Fame. But the sad tale of Truth forces me to add; that, in those *domestic* and *intestine* Wars between the Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, the intrepid courage of our *Countrymen*, proved almost as fatal to *themselves*, as it had ever done to their foreign Enemies. The admired Poet---whom I have so frequently quoted, I am afraid even to *satiety*---thus beautifully paints their fraternal fury in his description of the battle of Blore-Heath---

¹ At *Leith* in Scotland, on the 11th of May, 1544. Take the Names of them alphabetically—

William Brereton	Philip Egerton	John Massëy
Roger Brereton	Richard Egerton	Edmund Savage
Urian Brereton	Thomas Holford	Edward Savage
Hugh Calveley	John Legh	Laurence Smith
Hugh Cholmondeley	Piers Legh	Thomas Venables
William Davenport	Raufe Leycester	Edward Warren.

And the succeeding day he created seven more of them *Esquires*; by honouring them with the ensigns peculiar to that rank—a Collar of SS about their Necks, and a Pair of *silver Spurs*. Their Names were,

Richard Birkenhead	Thomas Cowper	Raufe Leech	Adam Troutbeck
Roger Boydel	Hugh Dutton	William Sneed	

There

" There ¹ DUTTON, DUTTON kills ; a DONE doth kill a DONE ;

" A BOOTH, a BOOTH ; and LEIGH by LEIGH is overthrown ;

" A VENABLES, against a VENABLES doth stand ;

" And TROUTBECK fighteth with a TROUTBECK, hand to hand ;

" There MOLINEUX doth make a MOLINEUX to die ;

" And EGERTON the strength of EGERTON doth try.

" Oh, CHESHIRE, wert thou mad ! of thine own *Native Gore*,

" So much, until this day, thou never shed'st before !

" Above *two thousand* Men, upon the earth were thrown,

" Of whom the greatest part, were *naturally* thine *own* ?

Such, my dear Friend, *once* was, the Martial Prowess of the *Men of Cheshire* ! And such, I have no doubt, it would be again, if their *Country* called them forth into the Field of Glory³. But having barely hinted at this part of their *Provincial Character*, in the beginning of this Letter---my Sketch of Historic Materials must have been incomplete, if I had not marked them as much for their MILITARY FAME,

¹ This Battle was fought in 1459, at Blore-Heath in Staffordshire. Lord Audley commanded the *Lancastrians*, and the Earl of Salisbury the *Yorkists*; who gained a compleat Victory.

² Drayton's Poly-Olb. song xxii.

³ Upon the first embodying of the *Militia* in the late war, there were more Gentlemen of Rank and Fortune in the *Cheshire Corps*, than in any other Militia-Regiment throughout the Kingdom. Who submitted, for many Months, to the disagreeable duty of guarding the lines at Brompton near Chatham ; and several of them made their marches on *Foot*, equally with the meanest Soldier.

as for their UNBOUNDED HOSPITALITY of Yore.---Besides, if *Music's* charms

“ Can soften Rocks, or bend the knotted Oak.”

what *human* mind can be so entirely divested of every humane sentiment, as, at the sight or mention of those *Statues*¹ at Doddington, not to reflect and descant with uncommon pleasure upon the Heroic Acts of those illustrious Worthies.

But---“ Why should *Warriours* all our Praise engross?”---since the milder glories of the Sons of *Peace*, are infinitely more beneficial to mankind.--I shall therefore resume my *Chronological Series* with a *Name*, the most distinguished in the literary and peaceful Annals of our Historical Collectors. The whole Choir of whom, ought to rise with due obedience, to the venerable person I am now enrolling in their number---

Ut Gallo, Phæbi Chorus assurrexerit Omnis.

“ Cum Majorum *Imagines* intuerentur, vehementissime sibi animum ad
“ Virtutem accendi. Scilicet, non *Ceram* illam, neque *Figuram*, tantam Vim in
“ sese habere; sed memoria rerum gestarum eam flammam egregiis Viris in
“ Pectore crescere; neque prius sedari, quam Virtus eorum famam atque gloriam
“ adæquaverit.”

Sallust Bell. Jugurth. sect 4.

P

This

This accomplished personage is Sir PETER LEYCESTER, the celebrated Author of the *Antiquities of Cheshire*, published in 1672. Our much-respected *Literary Parent* received every mark of gratitude, and every possible degree of honour, from this her distinguished Son. In a *manuscript* note to an *enlarged* and *corrected* Copy of his *Antiquities*, he expresses himself thus under the parish of *Mobberley*---“ Samuel Shipton, M. A. Rector of Mobberley, “ died in 1670; an honest, learned Gentleman! who was “ my *Tutor* whilst I was of Brazen-Nose College, Oxford, “ in the years 1631--2--3.” And in other parts of his *Manuscript Additions*, he speaks, with extreme pleasure, “ of “ his having been for some years--he hopes--the *not unworthy* “ Member of a Society, which is entitled to so much veneration from our Palatinate.”---It ought not, however to be concealed, that these *Antiquities of Cheshire*, published by Sir Peter, have been much complained of for the unenterprising and uninteresting manner in which they are written. But notwithstanding a seeming harshness that may perhaps appear in them, they have really an infinite degree of intrinsic merit. And the MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS this very able and accurate Historian hath left behind him, reflect almost as much honour on his literary Character, as the *Antiquities* he has published. They extend at least to the vast number of TWENTY VOLUMES. And, as LEYCESTER will
always

always be a *Name*, consecrated to Learning and our National Antiquities; the extreme attention of the present amiable Lady Leycester¹, to whatever she imagines may contribute to the illustration and the glory of our Palatinate, hath generously consigned all these volumes to the care and confidence of your Friend.---It hath been asserted, seemingly with some degree of truth, that Sir Peter collected for *all* the several Hundreds. My own opinion is, that he did not collect for them *professedly*. But his *Manuscript-Remains* certainly relate to, and extend over, the whole County. They contain a prodigious fund of very valuable intelligence; and will greatly tend to the completion of his *favourite wish*, at the conclusion of his History of Bucklow Hundred.---“ Thus have I, by God’s assistance, run
“ through Bucklow Hundred; according to such evidences
“ and Records, as I had carefully collected concerning the
“ same. If I had not met with some obstructions by some
“ Gentlemen, who, either out of *Waywardness* or *Jealousy*,
“ did refuse to let me have the perusal of their Evidences,
“ some things might possibly have been further discovered
“ and illustrated.---In the mean time, I wish *this* may in-
“ cite some more able hand to undertake the like for the
“ reviving of *those decayed Monuments of Antiquity in the other*

¹ Her Ladyship is the third daughter and coheiress of Sir William Fleming, Bart. of Roydall in Westmoreland.

“ *Hundreds of this our County, which yet lie buried and covered in the rubbish of devouring Time*¹. ”

The succeeding Collector to Sir Peter Leycester, is your *Maternal* Great-Grandfather, ROGER WILBRAHAM of *Townes-End*, in the Parish of Namptwich. This family name is undoubtedly *local*, and was more anciently written *Wilburham*. They are descendants, by the female line, from one of the *Nobles* of Hugh Lupus; Richard Vernon, Baron of Shipbroke². And the *Townes-End Branch* derives its stem from *Randal*, the second son of Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhay, in the Reign of Henry the Fourth. Our great Antiquary, in his *Britannia*³, thus describes this ancient family---“ Hence, the Weaver continues its course southward, not far from *Woodhay*; where the famous and knightly family of the *Wilburham*’s lived long in great “repute⁴. ”---The COLLECTIONS Mr. Wilbraham left behind him *principally relate to the Town and District of Namptwich*.

¹ Sir Peter Leycester, Bart. was descended from Sir Nicholas de Leycester, Lord of the Manor of *Nether-Tabley*, in 1276. Where this distinguished family has flourished ever since.—Sir Peter was born in 1613, and died in 1678.

² King’s-Vale-Royal, part 2d. page 145.

³ Vol. i. page 674.

⁴ The Heiress of the Wilbrahams of Woodhay carried the whole estate, by marriage, into the Family of Talmache, Earl of Dysart.

And

And the copy of them, now in my possession, sufficiently demonstrates the industry and attention with which he prosecuted his *Antiquarian Researches*. As he was blessed with the *Inheritance of Wisdom*---Length of Days in his right hand, and in his left hand Riches and Honour'---it is by no means matter of surprise, that his *Literary-Remains* upon this subject are as complete as we could possibly have wished them.

Cotemporary with your worthy Ancestor, was, an ingenious Collector of the name of HARRINGTON; whose Family, though now no more, had *once* considerable property at Urdeshall. His Collections have been consigned to Fame by the celebrated Bishop Gibson, in his first Edition of the *Britannia*². His Lordship there tells us,---“ that the
“ defects of *Doddridge* and others, in tracing the Origin of
“ the *County Palatine*, are in a great measure supplied by
“ *what* the *learned* Mr. Harrington has left upon the sub-
“ ject. A gentleman, by whose death, learning in gene-
“ ral, and *particularly the Antiquities of this County*, which
“ *he had designed to illustrate and improve*, have suffered
“ greatly.”---And upon this head, I am sorry to sympathize with this venerable Prelate, in most sincerely lament-

¹ He died in the year 1705, at the *advanced* age of Eighty-five.

² Camden Brit. (Edit. 1695) page 566.

ing---that all my enquiries, after Mr. Harrington's *Cheshire Illustrations*, have not been able to discover the least vestige where any of his *learned Treasures* may lie concealed.

My Chronological Series brings me now to the Collectors of our *Age*, and *Century*.---At the head of whom stands, deservedly, the Rev. Mr. John Stones, late Minor-Canon of our Cathedral, and Rector of Coddington in Cheshire. His Collections are included in one folio, and two thick quarto, volumes. But it is not the *Bulk*, so much as the *Value*, of the materials we are to attend to. And Mr. Stones appears to have been a person of such consummate judgement, with such an intimate knowledge of his subject, as to have collected nothing from the *Antiquarian Mine*, except *Ore* of the richest and the purest *Gold*.--These valuable materials, the friendship of his son, and the obliging favour of the learned Dean and Chapter, have kindly entrusted to my perusal and fidelity.

Mr. Stone's successor, in our Chronological Series, was John Warburton, Somerset-Herald; whose indefatigable Labours have so greatly contributed to the ornament and illustration of almost every County in the Kingdom. His method was perhaps *singularly* sensible---to glean up every thing, either in *print* or *manuscript*, which had the most distant relation to that particular County he intended to elucidate.

elucidate. These scattered fragments, like the *Sybils' Leaves*, he bound up into volumes suitable to the size of the papers he had collected; either folio, quarto, or octavo.---His *Essex Gleanings* are now in my possession, through the communicative kindness of John Leake, Esq. *Chester-Herald*. And though I have not hitherto received the *Cheshire Collections*, yet the Essex Papers give me a sufficient insight into the form of *those materials*, of which I have the absolute and the obliging promise. It is scarcely worth while to particularize his *printed* fragments, relative to our Palatinate---An Abstract of his manuscript Collections is as follows--“ A Calendar of the *Manors* in Cheshire, with the several *Fees* the Lords of the said Manors paid to the *Earl of Chester*; and the *Names* of the *Proprietors* to the year 1710, quarto.---An Account of the *principal Families* in Cheshire, with the *Lands they held* in the said County, from the 33d of Edward the Third, to the 24th of Henry the Seventh, folio.---A register of the *Black Prince*, and *Homage* due to the *Earl of Chester*; with the names of the *Principal Families, Lords of Manors, Lordships, &c.* from the 3d of Edward the Third, to the 29th of Elizabeth, folio.---A variety of Maps, Plans, and Profiles; with manuscript notes by Plot, Warburton, and others; and whatsoever is curious in the Repositories of the “ *Heralds-*

"*Herald's-Office*, the *Harleian Library*, and the *Office of Record*, relative to the County Palatine of Chester."---

Here, my dear Friend, ends the Abstract of these most useful and most interesting Materials. Which form a strong contrast with the succeeding COLLECTORS I must now give you an account of ;---as these are rather in *detached* pieces, than in any manner the least *systematical*. They come from the hand of a person fond of Antiquities, and thoroughly acquainted with every *ancient* circumstance of our NATIVE CITY. Of this Horfeley had ample proof in his *Cestrian* Researches for his *Britannia Romana*. And I have *written* as well as *living* evidence to declare---that though he has studiously concealed the name of his benefactor, yet if Mr. CARRINGTON¹ had not been the *guiding Index* of his Enquiries, Horfeley's Account of Roman Remains in Chester would have been exceedingly imperfect.

What has been said of the preceding COLLECTIONS, may be applied to *those* I shall next commemorate.---As phyfic is a profession, some how or other, congenial with Antiquities ; the late Dr. GOWER of Chester, a quondam Mem-

¹ I have now in my possession the most *curious manuscript* I have yet seen upon the Antiquities of Chester. It was the property of Mr. Carrington ; who has greatly enlarged it, and continued it to our own times.

ber

ber of our honoured College, and who died in 1745, hath left us many *curious and sensible Remarks* upon this subject¹. The very extensive Practice of his Profession enabled him to make very extensive Enquiries. But then this Practice incapacitated him from committing a great deal to Writing. His Remarks consequently are detached, desultory, and unconnected. But still they point out the hand of a *Master*. And those who remember him, need no account from me, how much he excelled in the several accomplishments of a Gentleman, a Scholar, and a Physician.---You must excuse me, however, my dear Friend, applying to myself upon this tender occasion, what Milton has said of our first Parents, upon the Loss of Paradise---

“ Some Natural Tears they dropt ”—

These congenial studies, of Physic and Antiquities, have given rise to another very able, but much more industrious *Collector*; Dr. COWPER of Overley, Fellow of the Antiquary Society, and Mayor of Chester in 1754.---His COLLECTIONS *chiefly relate to the City, and its Environs; are digested into Annals, after the manner of Peck's Stamford, and are sufficiently numerous to be arranged in three folio volumes*². Had the Doctor enjoyed a longer period of exist-

¹ The late Dr. Gower had one of the most elegant and best digested Collections of Medals of any Gentleman in Cheshire.

² This intelligence about the Contents of Dr. Cowper's Collections, comes from his intimate Friend, Mr. Norris, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries.

ence, we might have expected a complete and diffusive History of our native City. But since---*Diis aliter visum est*---we have only to lament; that a Diffidence, inseparable from Learning, should have absolutely prohibited any perusal of his large Collections. Especially too after the Specimen he has given us in *Print* of his Antiquarian Abilities---“ in his Summary of the Life, and of the celebrated “ *Shrine*, of St. Werburgh.”

The last Collector I shall mention, is a *Name*, my dear Friend, that is sacred to yourself. Since it is the late *worthy* RECORDER of the City of Chester; who was a warm and zealous Friend to all its *corporate* Rights, and to the whole Circle of its Interests. Was I writing to any other than to you, I should certainly mention him in the character of a Lawyer, of great knowledge and abilities in his profession; and who had besides a strong tincture for literary pursuits, with a leading passion for the elucidation of *legal Antiquities*¹. Of this he has left behind him ample proofs, in the COLLECTIONS, your Friendship has favoured me with.

¹ Considering the *hereditary* Claim you have, by *both* your Parents, to the Study of our National Antiquities---I shall take the Liberty to remind you of two striking Lines in Virgil; though I will not offend you by any Application of them —

Ecquid, in *Antiquam Virtutem*, animosque Viriles,
Et Pater *Æneas*, et *Avunculus* excitat Hector?

It

It is true, these Collections are not copious; but then their design and purport have stamped such an inestimable value on them, as to make us earnestly wish they had extended beyond a single folio volume.---While our earliest Records, are, either now sleeping in profound obscurity, or mouldering away in their secure Repository of the Castle; they will yet live in the *Recorder's COPY*--by the means of those very sensible and judicious *Extracts* he has made from them. And, to crown the whole of his laborious Researches, he has added a *Glossary*, ingeniously explaining all the antiquated Words and Phrases that occur in the originals.

Having now done with the *Human*, or, if you please, the *Animate*-Collectors of our County Evidences---I shall proceed to mention a few; which, with your leave, I will venture to call the *Inanimate* Ones. I mean those family Mansions, that, by the *Die of Chance*, have been consecrated to the Preservation of Cheshire Antiquities. The few I shall commemorate, are the mansions of CREW, DUTTON, and MERBURY; not, as the only *Cheshire Repositories*, but I believe the principal ones; and, which contained a variety of Deeds and Records, beyond the private evidences of their own Lords and Masters. These very ancient Mansions have given *local* Names to as many ancient and distinguished Families. And that *Crew-Hall* should have been the *tutelary*
Pre-

server of Antiquarian Treasures, we can scarcely wonder ; when, above a century ago, Mr. RANULPH CREW rescued, from their perishable State, the first Memorials we have in *Print* of the former Splendour of our Palatinate.*

This accomplished Gentleman excelled to that degree in the Polite-Arts, and particularly in *Drawing*---that his *Geographical Delineations* were impossible to be distinguished from the best *engraved* Maps. And, unhappily for his native County ! the very Means he made use of for the Improvement and Extension of his Accomplishments, turned out the melancholy instruments of his ruin---having been barbarously assassinated at Paris in the year 1656.

I have already told you, that this amiable Young Man was the grandson of Sir Ranulph Crew, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's-Bench in 1624---Who was not more distinguished, by his Knowledge in the Laws of his Country, than by his superiour Skill in *Architecture*. Of this, the pleasing and elegant Structure of Crew-Hall will remain an indisputable proof, as long as the most beautiful ancient mansion, perhaps, in the whole kingdom shall exist. And, what is much more for his Lordship's character, the *Virtues* of his *Heart*, were at least equal to the *Abilities* of

* See page 24.

his *Head*. Since he was honourably discharged from all his *Legal Employments*¹ for declaring his utter and determined dislike to a Measure, the most disagreeable at that time to his Country².---Sir Ranulph's descendant, John Crew, Esquire, inherits his Lordship's Distinction in the County, as well as his large Fortunes---being one of its present Representatives. And he has shewed as much Taste in the beautiful Arrangement and Disposition of his *Grounds*, as his illustrious Ancestor displayed in the Construction of this pleasing Edifice. Thus uniting in the same Family those grand Exertions of Taste, which Mr. Pope thought sufficient honour to be enjoyed separate and distinct---

Who *plants* like Bathurst, and who *builds* like Boyle?

But of the *three Mansions*, which I have been bold enough to distinguish by the name of *Inanimate Collectors*, I apprehend the Edifice and HALL OF DUTTON---during the flou-

¹ November 10, 1626.

² My Lord Clarendon expresses his Disapprobation of the Expedient of *Ship-Money* in the following nervous Manner — “ And here the Damage and Mischief “ cannot be expressed, that the Crown and State sustained in the deserved Re- “ proach and Infamy that attended the Judges, by being made Use of in *this*, “ and like Acts of Power; there being no Possibility to preserve the Dignity, “ Reverence, and Estimation of the Laws themselves, but by the Integrity “ and Innocency of the Judges.”

Hist. of the Rebell. vol. i. page 70.

rishing æra of that most respectable and superb Family---to have been the principal Asylum of our fugitive and perishable Records. The Fate of this Family must necessarily remind us of the Uncertainty of all Human Grandeur. Since after deriving their descent from ODARD, coeval and consanguineous with the *Norman Conqueror*, their Name and Family is no more. And we may weep over their Manés in the same accents of generous pity, as the downfall of the State of Ilium is lamented---

“ That Corn now grows, where *Troy Town* stood.”

For what circumstance can be more humiliating to terrestrial Magnificence, than the Reflection---that after they had flourished in the very spot, where ODARD had first seated them, “ a Family of great Worth and Antiquity, and as “ it were almost a constant succession of Knights for above “ fix hundred years ”---the Remembrance of them should now as effectually have vanished, as that of “ a Guest which “ had tarried only a single day.”--Their great Progenitor too, the famous Odard, like his Kinsman HUGH LUPUS, had a celebrated *Sword of Dignity*, constantly preserved at Dutton, as an *Heir-Loom* of the Family. Which, in the year 1665, was the property of Lady Kilmorey, sole daughter and

¹ Hist. of Bucklow Hundred page 248, line 34.

heirefs of Thomas Dutton of Dutton¹, Esquire. But into whose custody this memorable Relick has been since con- signed, you may naturally imagine, would not to me be an unpleasing, or an uninteresting, article of intelligence. And the Fate of many of their valuable Records is equally as un- certain, as that of this Sword of Dignity. Since it is not to be imagined, that the same careless hand which diffi- pated their large possessions, would preserve their *literary Remains*; and, alas! to him---their useles and most in- significant of Trifles.---But *Chance*, in this instance at least, has been more favourable than *Design*. Some of them are now in the possession of the present worthy Mr. Leech of Carden; and I have in my own custody a Record of great consequence, inscribed, "Liber Petri Dutton armigeri 1650."

¹ There was a Privilege of *licensing the Minstrels*, peculiar to this ancient Family, much too remarkable to be omitted. The *original Grant* came from our *renowned Earl*, RANDAL BLUNDEVILLE, to ROGER LACY, *Constable* of Chester; and his son, John Lacy, assigned the Privilege to the Family of DUTTON. The Anniversary of this Solemnity was constantly celebrated on the Festival of St. John the Baptist; by a regular Procession of all the *Minstrels* to the Church of this Tutelary Saint in the City of Chester.—But after having been constantly observed for at least 550 years, it seems to have been disconti- nued in 1758. And as an instance how sacred, those *exclusive Privileges*, which had been granted to us by our CHESHIRE MONARCHS, were esteemed by Legi- flative Wisdom; the Act of the 29th of Elizabeth, which declares all *Itinerant Minstrels* to be *vagabonds*, particularly excepts the Minstrel-Jurisdiction, of JOHN DUTTON, of Dutton in Cheshire, Esq.

What

What has been said of the great Family of *Dutton*, may be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Family of MERBURY. ---Though they flourished for many Centuries, in the highest degree of Reputation, and of Honour; yet their Possessions, and their Papers, have long since passed into other hands. But I have many reasons to imagine, that the original LEDGER BOOK¹ of the magnificent Abbey of Vale-Royal, whilom in the possession of the Merburies, is now in the Library of my valuable and most esteemed Friend, THOMAS CHOLMONDELEY, Esq. of Vale-Royal, the late amiable and public-spirited Representative of Cheshire.

Here then, my dear Friend, ends the Completion of my Promise---a short, but very imperfect Account of the Characteric-Genius of the *Men of Cheshire*, and of the Collections for a History of our Palatinate, in a series almost strictly chronological. From these Collections, and other inestimable Remains, I am convinced a History might be formed of our native County, infinitely superiour to any History, yet existing, of any County in Great Britain. Or, if you please, a History that shall as much excel Dugdale's Warwickshire, *as this celebrated History* is supposed to excel

¹ "The Ledger Book of Vale-Royal Abby now in Possession of Thomas Merbury of Merbury, nigh Great Budworth, Esq. 1666. A copy whereof remains among the Evidences at Dutton."

Hist. of Bucklow Hund. p. 220, l. 18.

those

those of all our Provincial Districts. Since at present it certainly ranks amongst them in the same distinguished manner, as the "Moon is poetically said to shine amongst the "lesser Luminaries."

But notwithstanding my Love of my *native* Soil, and my avowed Passion for these my favourite Pursuits; I have not, I fear, a Sufficiency of Health or Leisure, much less Abilities, for this very arduous Task. I will assist to the utmost I am able; but as to assuming of the Lead---if the properest study of mankind is *Man*---I know myself entirely unequal to it. And, I will engage, that the *engraved Plates*, with all the Copies of ancient Manuscripts, which have cost me considerably more than Fifty Guineas, shall be at the service of their chosen Historian.---It is to me a pleasing Reflection, that the fortunate accident of my Birth in this County, has greatly contributed to the Ease and Happiness of my Life. And therefore, could my precise Idea of its genuine Glory be *realized*, I would with pleasure subscribe a Sum of Fifty Guineas more, for this grand and noble Undertaking.

But Grandeur and Nobility always imply expence. And you may firmly assure yourself, that this natural Alliance will not be dissolved in the present Instance of our History of Cheshire.---That the Plan cannot possibly be completed
T under

under *two large* Volumes in Folio, I am certain ; and, I fear, the ancient Splendour of our native City will disdain to be confined within such narrow limits.---For consider, my dear Friend, that *King's Vale-Royal*, as it stands at present, makes a moderate sized volume in folio ; though it relates chiefly and principally to Chester. And the History of Bucklow Hundred---though it is only as *one*¹ to *seven*---makes a volume in folio, nearly of the size of King's. What then must become of our enlarged and copious Treasure of Materials, if we think of executing the Work upon so narrow a system, as what imperfectly describes, only the City of Chester, and *one single* Hundred of the whole County ?

But these *two Volumes* in Folio, with the Appendages of their numerous Plates², can by no means be published under the vast expence of 3000 l.--even at the lowest degree of estimation. And if the noble Remains of some of our superb Mansions, our

----- Illium, et ingens

Gloria CESTRIENSIIUM -----

were to be included, the Expence must greatly exceed this, very enormous, Sum.

But

¹ Cheshire consists of seven Hundreds ; of which, Bucklow-Hundred is not the largest in Extent.

² Viz. Of ancient Castles, Churches, Religious Houses, Monuments, Arms, and Seals ; with Views of all our several *local* Antiquities.

But you may perhaps ask me--in nearly the language of Pope --

“ Oh say, what *Means* this vast Expence supply !

“ What *Mines* to swell this boundless History ?—

I would answer, the generous, and the publick-spirited, *Mine* of a Subscription.---The particular Quota of each Subscriber, far be it from me to presume to mention. Let the Gentlemen of the County fix any Sum, they please, between the indispenfible Extremes of *six* and *ten* Guineas ; and let them send their Names, either to Mr. Bathurst, Bookfeller in Fleet-Street, London ; or to Mr. Lawton, Bookfeller in Chester. When Two HUNDRED have subscribed their Names, it may be time to think of forming an *Antiquarian Association*, under the Auspices of some chosen Chief, some selected *Teucer* '----similar to that laudable Society, which was formed by the Encouragement of Sir Thomas Cave, for the *History of Northamptonshire*.---But whether formed, or not, the Publick, and yourself, may certainly depend upon the faithful Performance of my present Engagements. And perhaps the Execution of some Parts of the Plan, may be nearly coeval with the Existence of the Society ; as no Requisite is wanting, to the final Completion of *one whole Hundred*, except a regular List of Incumbents ; with a regular History of Property and Families, for the last Fifty

* Teucro Duce, et Auspice Teucro. HOR.

Years.

Years. To which I must necessarily add; a personal and careful Investigation, of every remarkable *local* Circumstance, and every memorable Relick of Antiquity, that may be worthy of the Notice, and the Attention of Posterity.

Before I conclude; I have only, my dear Friend, to endeavour to repay *the mighty Debt of Gratitude* I owe to my BENEFACTORS, by returning them, through your Means, my *most sincere* and *most respectful Acknowledgments* for the several Favours they have condescended to shew me. And tho' your Solicitations, contrary to my own express Wishes, have emboldened my *unfledged Pinions*¹ to the first Essay of this daring Flight; yet my obliging Benefactors may possibly trace the *Hand*, that sends them these respectful Acknowledgements, though it has not the Confidence to subscribe its *Name*.---The *Heart*, however, you know you may always command of

Your sincere, faithful, and
affectionate of Friends,

A Fellow of the Antiquary Society.

¹ Olim Juventas, et patrius Vigor,
Nido laborum propulit *infcium*;
Vernique, jam Nimbis remotis,
Insolitos docuere *Nisus*
Venti Paventem.—

HOR. lib. iv. ode 4.

P O S T S C R I P T.

THOUGH I have now closed this tedious letter ; yet busy Recollection,--and to you I fear an impertinent one,--still urges me to blot more Paper, and to trespass still further upon the Partialities of your Friendship. CHESHIRE, you know, is the Burthen of my Theme !---And, when either the Glories of her Empire, or the Beauties of her *sequestred Retreats*,¹ at any time strike my Fancy---will you excuse me for endeavouring to fix these Ideas, by cloathing them with Language, and transmitting them to you, tho' perhaps intruding Visitors ? I will hope, however, for your Pardon !---And could I flatter myself with the Hopes, that the Muse of History would not refuse the influence of her Aid, at the Request of the *Silvan Nymphs* of *Wirrall* and of *Delamere*, my Satisfaction would be compleat.

Busy Recollection then, my dear Friend, presents me with a striking Instance of refined Policy in *Hugh Lupus*

U ---the

“ — — Thy green Retreats,

“ Invite my Lays ! — be present *Silvan* Maids !

“ Unlock your springs, and open all your Shades ;

“ — — Your Aid, O *Muses*, bring !”

Pope's *Windf. Forest*.

---the Founder of our local Monarchy---perfectly similar with a Political Institution of the Founder of Imperial Rome. *Population*, you know, is not barely the Ornament, and the Splendor---it is the positive Basis of every Empire. ROMULUS therefore, in order to furnish his new City with Inhabitants, opened an *Asylum* for the Fugitives of all Nations. LUPUS did the same. But, as his Territories were much more extensive, than even those of the *Empress of the World*, in her Days of Infancy---and as they had been greatly depopulated by the Ravages of War---instead of *one*, he opened *three Asyla*, for the Umbrage and Protection of any new Subjects, that might take shelter under the cover of his Wings. These *three Asyla* were, HOOLE-HEATH near Chester, OVER-MARSH near Farndon, and RUD-HEATH near Middlewich. Their Situation was most happily imagined. *Two* of them near the Confines of Wales---where the Addition of every single Subject added a double Portion of domestic Strength---and the *third* near the Center of his Dominions. It is not impossible, but the rude and uncultivated State of these extensive *Wastes*, might influence the Founder of our Empire in his Choice, as well as their happy Situation. But whatever was the Motive of assigning these particular Spots for his several *Asyla*---it is certain, that the Success of them was equal to his utmost Wishes. The Prince of Roman Historians mentions this sensible Institution of Romulus, as being agreeable to the
ancient

ancient Practice of the *Founders of all States*.¹ But we cannot suppose, that a rough and unpolished NORMAN, whose only Science could be that of War, and whose principal amusements must arise from the very din and clangor of Arms ---could adopt this refinement of policy from any *literary* Lights, or derive any Intelligence about it from the informing Page of History. Nature, alone, must have been his Guide ; and his Tutorefs, instinctive Reason.

Such was the state of *Hugh Lupus*'s Political Institution ! ---But the History of very remote times becomes so exceedingly confused, when it depends only upon the Evidence of Oral Tradition---that though the Remembrance of the Fact, relative to these *Asyla*, was perfectly distinct and clear, in the days of our Historical Collector, *Webb*---yet the *Reasons* of the Fact were entirely obliterated and defaced from the traces of Human Memory.---Speaking of Twemlowe, in his Vale-Royal, he proceeds thus,--“ And so we passe into that spacious
“ Precinct of *Rudbeath*, a wide Common, containing a large
“ Circuit,

¹ Deinde, ne vana Urbis Magnitudo esset, adjiciendæ Multitudinis causâ, *vetere Consilio condentium Urbes*, qui, obscuram atque humilem conciendo ad se Multitudinem, natam è Terrâ sibi Prolem ementiebantur ; Locum, qui nunc septus descendentibus inter duos lucos est, *Asylum* aperit. Eò ex finitimis Populis Turba omnis, sine discrimine, liber an servus esset, avida Novarum Rerum per-
fugit : idque *primum* ad cæptam Magnitudinem Roboris fuit.

Liv. Hist. Rom. Lib. i. sect 8.

“ Circuit, and which hath in *old Time had a Sanctuary* in
 “ it, with priviledges thereunto ; such, as howsoever in-
 “ tended by those Founders, in pity and *compassion to poor*
 “ *Offenders* : yet in the abuse of them, an encouragement to
 “ wilfull and desperate Transgressors ; and therefore justly
 “ demolished.”---But tho’ *Webb*---depending only upon
 Tradition---knew nothing of the *true Origin* of this Asy-
 lum ; yet that ancient invaluable Record, the *Cheshire*
Domesday in the possession of your Friend’, bears indispu-
 table Evidence to the *Principles* and *Reasons*, upon which
 this Political Establishment was first formed. The Verdict
 of two Inquisitions, delivered by a Jury of the most distin-
 guished Gentlemen of Cheshire---upon the awful Solemnity
 of an Oath---contains the Faith and Testimony of this in-
 disputable Evidence. One of these Inquisitions was taken
 in the Seventh Year of Edward the Second ; and the other
 in the Twentieth of Edward the Third. And, if you will
 give me leave, I will present you with the substance of the
 two Verdicts.

By an Inquisition, taken before Hugh de Audelith,
 Justice of Chester, on Sunday after the Feast of St. Peter ad
 Vincula, it was found---“ That a certain large piece of
 “ *Waste*, called OVERMARSH, was in *ancient Times* or-
 “ dained

“ dained for Strangers, of what Country soever; and as-
 “ signed to such, as came to the *Peace* of the Earl of Ches-
 “ ter, or to his Aid; resorting there to form Dwellings,
 “ but without building any fixed Houses, by the means of
 “ Nails or Pins, save only Booths and Tents to live in.”

The other Inquisition, is as follows---“ The Jury” de-
 “ clare upon their Oaths, that the *Moor* which is called
 “ RUDHEATH, was formerly a *Waste* Place, very anciently
 “ assigned and set apart by some of the *old Earls of Chester*,
 “ for the Reception, not only of their own Subjects, but
 “ of all fugitive Strangers coming to the Aid of the Earl’s
 “ *Peace*, either from *England*, or from any other Countries.”
 ---And there is an Inquisition of the same Tenor, relative
 to the other Asylum of HOOLE-HEATH.

Having thus shewed you, my dear Friend, beyond the
 possibility of a doubt---that the Principles of Policy, in the
 Founders of the *Roman* and the *Cestrian* states, were as per-
 fectly parallel, as they were perfectly refined---a circumstance

W

surely

“ Hamo de Massi, Hugo de Venables, Urian de Sancto Petro, Rogerus
 “ de Chedle, Hugo de Dutton, Petrus de Dutton, et Roberrus de Pulford,
 “ Milites; Johannes de Wettenhale, Willielmus de Boidell, Johannes de Leghe,
 “ Matthæus de Becheton, David de Egerton, Robertus de Bulkeley, et alii
 “ *Juratores.*”

Cheshire Domesday, Princip.

surely the most resplendent for our Native County---I shall take the liberty of troubling you with another illustrious Fact; which is equally founded in Truth, and equally conducive to the Glory of our Palatinate.---That renowned Earl, RANDAL BLUNDEVILLE, reigned the sole monarch of his Dominions, with such an absolute and such a sovereign Power---that he acknowledged no SUPERIOUR; whenever the Behests of his Paramount Lord were contrary to the maxims of sound Policy, or to those dictates of natural Justice, which he thought a wise and a virtuous Prince owed always to a faithful and an obedient people. Of this, there was a remarkable Instance, when that weak Prince Henry the Third issued his Imperial Mandate for the Collection of the *Papal Tax*--commonly called *Peter-pence*--through the whole extent of his Dominions. Since our *Cestrian Monarch*, not only forbid the Collection of it, within the Bounds of his own Territories, but threatened the Collectors with condign Punishment, if they insolently disobeyed his Royal Pleasure. Amongst other Historians, of the most approved Character, who relate this Fact---William Smith, in the *Vale-Royal*, gives us the following, and by far the best, Account of the Transaction.---“ Randal, or Ranulph, the Third, “ he says, was very well learned, especially in the Laws of the “ Realm; infomuch that he compiled a Book thereof. He “ was also very zealous in Religion. For we read, that “ when

P O S T S C R I P T.

“ when the Pope sent his Collectors throughout Christen-
 “ dom, to gather up his *Tenths*, he *alone* refused to pay
 “ any : Suffering none in his Dominions, either Layman or
 “ Clerk, to yield any *Tenths* to the Pope’s Proctors ; al-
 “ though *all England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, paid it.*”¹

Instances, such as these, of refined Policy, Wisdom, and
 Puissance, in the Conduct of our *local* Monarchs ; I fondly
 imagine, my dear Friend,---though “ I have never dreamt
 “ upon the summit of Parnassus”---to be Stars, of such
 Historic Radiance, in the Annals of our *Cheshire Empire* ;
 that any Sketch of the Memorials of her ancient Glory must
 have been defective, if I had endeavoured to have eclipsed
 their effulgent Splendour, by covering them with the Veil
 of Obscurity.

But the very *Catastrophe* of our Glory, is in some mea-
 sure the Herald of our former Fame. And as no Language
 can express the final Period of this Glory, in a clearer or
 more concise manner, than our great Antiquary has related it--
 ‘ So take the sad tale of this Catastrophe in nearly the
 words

¹ Part 1st page 51.

In part 2d page 31 there is this Remark : “ It is not impertinent to set
 “ down, what the same Author—Henry Bradshaw—writeth in another Place ;
 “ *and what Collections out of him I find recorded.*” But this Remark is an un-
 doubted Argument, that the Historian of the Vale-Royal, who was almost
 coeval with Bradshaw, imagined his Collections to be *unpublished*.

' words of Camden. " RANDAL BLUNDEVILLE, was suc-
 " ceded by his Nephew, JOHN, surnamed SCOTUS; who
 " dying without issue, Henry the Third, charmed with
 " the *Sight of so fair an Inheritance*, annexed it to the
 " Crown; not being willing that such a VAST ESTATE
 " should be *parcelled* out amongst DISTAFFS---meaning the
 " *Sisters and Cobeiresses* of Earl JOHN. But the Kings of
 " England, when this County devolved to the Crown, main-
 " tained their *ancient Palatine Prerogatives*, and continued
 " to hold their Courts---as the Kings of France did in the
 " County of Champaign---that the honour of the *Palati-*
 " *nate* might not be extinguished by disuse. An Honour
 " which was ever afterwards conferred upon the King's
 " eldest Son; and, in the first Instance, upon EDWARD,
 " Heir apparent of this very Henry. But when this martial
 " Prince had unhappily been taken Prisoner in the Battle of
 " Lewes, he was obliged to regain his Liberty, by plucking this
 " inestimable Jewel out of his Princely Diadem, and resigning
 " it to the Victorious *Baron*, Simon Montfort, Earl of Lei-
 " cester; as the valuable Reward, and indeed the only
 " adequate Purchase, of his Ransom. ¹

¹ Simon Montfort being soon afterwards slain in the Battle of Evesham, the Palatinate reverted to the Crown: and Richard the Second, by a solemn Act of the whole legislature, erected it into a Principality, as a splendid augmentation of his royal Titles; styling *himself*, PRINCEPS CESTRIÆ. His Successor, Henry the Fourth, repealed this Act, and restored those *Palatine-Prerogatives* which it enjoys to this Day.

After these Historic Anecdotes, I shall trespass no longer upon your Friendship, than merely to explain the Origin of the *Minstrel-Jurisdiction*, which I only barely hinted at, under the superb Mansion,¹ and Family of Dutton. And I shall then finally close the *Tedium* of your Perusal, and of this Postscript, by presenting you with a summary View of all the *Manuscripts* in my possession, towards a *new*, and I should hope, a not entirely undeserving, History of our distinguished County.

Amongst the Military Atchievements of the renowned Earl Randal--his Heroic Enterprises against Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, were not the least Instances of his undaunted Prowess. But being one day surpris'd, and surrounded in his Castle of Rothlent in Flintshire, by a Force infinitely superiour to his own; he sent Expresses, with the utmost privacy, to his great General, Roger Lacy,² earnestly desiring his immediate Relief in this exigence of danger. These Expresses found Lacy at Chester, during the Anniversary of the Midsummer Fair. And, as the occasion

¹ The Mansion and Lordship of Dutton, are now the property of Mrs. Bullock, wife of John Bullock, Esq. of Falkborne-Hall, and Representative of the Borough of Maldon, in Essex.

² Roger Lacy was CONSTABLE of Chester. The duty of this high Officer, was to command the Vanguard of the Earl's Army; and to be the Foremost in every Post of Danger.

was critically urgent, from the imminent peril of the Earl's Life; this General immediately marched with a tumultuous Croud of *Players, Fiddlers, and Musicians*, and all the Persons he could possibly assemble--of whom great numbers had been tempted to Chester, by the celebration of this festal Anniversary. Llewellyn, alarmed at the approach of this vast Multitude, raised the Siege with the utmost Precipitation. And, after Earl RANDALL's return in Triumph, the Effusions of his Gratitude formed his first Acts of Sovereignty; by rewarding Lacy, with an *exclusive Prerogative* over those particular *Trades and Mysteries*, which had been exercised by these fortunate, and signal Instruments of his Royal Preservation. The CONSTABLE's Son, John Lacy, reserved his *exclusive Privilege* over some of those Mechanic Occupations; but granted the *Minstrel-Prerogative* to HUGH DUTTON of DUTTON, and his Heirs: the Son of that RALFE DUTTON, who is supposed to have particularly marched at the Head of the Band of *Minstrels*. Thus consigning the Rule and Jurisdiction over this *Musical Profession* to that Family, whose Ancestor had so valiantly commanded them, in the capacity of a Body of Victorious Soldiers.¹

Let

¹ When the Earl's *Triumphal Cavalcade* made their Public Entry into Chester, after the Dispersion of Llewellyn and his Britons; it is not improbable, that—

like

Let me now present you with a summary View of those *Chefbire Manuscripts*, which are either at present in my Possession, or of which I have been favoured with the obliging Promise.---The Latter are printed in Italics.

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like the Return of Saul after the Slaughter of the Philistines—his Victorious
 “ *Minstrels* played before him, with Tabrets, and with Joy, and with all their
 “ Instruments of Music.” But whether they did or no, thus much is indisputably certain ; that the Musicians always *played* upon their Instruments of Minstrelsy, before the Earl of Chester's *Representative*, the LORD of DUTTON, in their Procession to St. John's Church, at the Midsummer Anniversary.

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The following Manuscripts have not been mentioned in the preceding Sketch of Materials; because the Authours, and the Collectors of them, were equally unknown. But I am sufficiently happy, either in the Promise, or the Possession of them.

1 A large Folio of 631 pages, containing a variety of very curious Miscellaneous Observations, relative to the County and City of Chester; digested alphabetically.

2 Another

2 Another Volume in Folio, containing the *Inquisitiones post mortem*, from the 33d year of Edward the Third to the 24th of Henry the Seventh.---Both which have been communicated to me through the extreme kindness of Mr. Lowe, of Christleton.

3 A Fædary in Folio of all the Tenures in *Capite*, during the Reign of Philip and Mary; transmitted to me by the Rev. Mr. Price, Bodley-Librarian, with that communicative zeal, which is peculiar to the literary friend of every intended publication.

4 Another Volume in Folio, of the most ancient and famous City of Chester.

5, 6 Two Quarto Volumes, treating of Chester; sent to me in the most obliging manner by Mr. Speed, Deputy Register.---One of them is arranged under 38 Chapters.

7 Another Volume in Quarto, upon the same Subject.---This too was transmitted through the Favor of the Rev. Mr. Price, Bodley-Librarian.

8 A thin Quarto Volume, on the Siege of Chester, communicated through the very friendly civility of the Rev. Mr. Harwood.

9 A curious Treatise in Quarto, inscribed Liber B, containing many valuable Materials ; and entrusted to me with the greatest Instances of Benevolence and Regard, by the Rev. Mr. Allen, Rector of Torporley.

10 A fair Manuscript in Octavo, of 200 pages, principally relating to the City of Chester ; but including a variety of Miscellaneous Remarks---very kindly and obligingly sent to me by Miss Tilston of Chester.

11 *Several Manuscripts in the Possession of Mr. Orme of Chester ; which he has genteely promised me the Use of.*

12 A Transcript, in a large Folio Volume, of Miscellaneous Articles, under the following Titles.

The Family and Descent of Hugh Earl of Chester.

The Acts of the Seven Earls of Chester.

Extracts from the Chronicles of Roger of Chester.

Extracts from the Chronicles of the Abbey of St. Werburgh.

Of the Holy Virgin St. Werburgh.

Extracts from the Chronicles of the Ecclesiastical History of Chester, brought down from the earliest Times to the year 1410, by John Rochford.

1 Mr. Allen has favoured me with a still more valuable Manuscript ; which has been commemorated in the preceding Sketch.

Some

Some Historical Accounts of the Abbey of Stanlaw, founded by John Lacy, *Constable* of Chester, and Baron of Halton, A. D. 1172; with a Catalogue of the Abbots.

Some Particulars of the Abbey of Stanlaw, and of the Family of the Laceys, the Founders of it.

Of the Genealogy of the Founders of the Abbey of Stanlaw.

A Chronicle of the Abbey of Stanlaw.

The Charter of the Abbey of Pulton 1153.

The Charter of Roger, *Constable* of Chester, to the Priory of Norton.

The Pedigrees of the Families of *Bostoke* and *Egerton* in Cheshire.

13 Another Transcript in Folio, containing Charters of Confirmation, of the Dignity of *Earl of Chester*, to the King's eldest Son, in the following Instances --- Edward, the Black Prince, Son of Edward the Third --- Prince Edward, Son of Henry the Sixth --- Prince Arthur, Son of Henry the Seventh --- with a particular Account, in what manner the *usual MISE*¹ of 3000 *Marks* was raised by the

¹ "MISES, are also those *Offerings*, which the Subjects of the Palatinate of *Chester* make to every Earl, at his Accession, for the Enjoyment of their *ancient Immunities*. As an instance, we have been informed, that the *Mise* paid to Charles the First, when he was created Earl of Chester, was about 2000 l."

Spelman's Glossary.

He was the *last* Earl, who was advanced to this High Dignity, with all the *Ceremonial of a pompous Investiture*.

Palatinate;

Palatinate, as a kind of *free Gift* from the Subjects to their Prince, upon his *actual Investiture* with the Dignity of this Earldom. — In this Volume is an old Map of Cheshire, printed about the year 1579, and elegantly coloured; on the sides of which, are several curious Memorandums, with the Names of all the Justices of the Peace at that time in the County.

14 CESTRIA ILLUSTRATA; or, *The Armorial Bearings of every individual Gentleman in the County of Chester; taken about the Year 1730.*

15 A Transcript of many Cheshire Particulars from the COUCHIR-BOOKS of the Dutchy of Lancaster; more especially from Tom. i. inscribed Comitatus Cestriae.

16 Several CHESHIRE Manuscripts, in the Hand Writing of that great Antiquary Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE, now in the Library of the very ancient and distinguished Family of the MAINWARINGS of Peover; descendants, by the Female Line, from HUGH CYVELIOC, the fifth Earl of Chester. Which, the present Baronet, Sir HENRY MAINWARING, has

¹ As the *Original MISE-BOOK* is supposed to be lost, the Recovery of it certainly becomes a Part of our *Historic-Desiderata*. And I have the Pleasure of informing you, that there is an authentic Copy of this *ancient MISE-BOOK* amongst the Manuscripts of Sir Peter Leycester.

offered

offered me the liberal Use of, as well as of his whole Collection, in a manner the most polite, and the most engaging that is possible.

17 Under similar circumstances, with the preceding article, is the following---Some Delineations of ancient Cestrian Remains, by the elegant Draughtsman of my esteemed Friend, THOMAS PENNANT, Esq. of Downing in Flintshire; the sensible and ingenious Author of BRITISH ZOOLOGY.

18 Upon this Head of Delineations, may it not be too much of the Egotist, to add?--Several hundred Drawings of, curious Seals, Coats of Arms, and Antiquarian Remains, copied---from very ancient and authentic Draughts still existing---by an ingenious Artist under my own Inspection.

Such, my dear Friend, is a Summary View of the enlarged, and copious Treasure of Materials for a History of Cheshire.---As a mere CATALOGUE, it must at least have fatigued, if not disgusted, you, by that dull Repetition, which is inseparable from every methodical Arrangement. With your obliging Permission, then, shall I endeavour to relieve, and if possible, to *charm* away these disagreeable sensations, by presenting you with *one Quotation more* from the

1 This most agreeable piece of intelligence was received, during the time these sheets were in the Press.

cele-

celebrated and much-admired Poet? Whose general Boundaries of our illustrious County, in his picturesque and beautifully descriptive Manner, may at the same time perhaps be neither an improper, nor an unpleasing, Conclusion of this imperfect Sketch---

THE GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF CHESHIRE;

IN THE DESCRIPTIVE POESY OF MICHAEL DRAYTON.

“ Oh! Thou thrice-happy Shire, confined so to be
 “ ’Twixt two, such famous Floods, as MERSEY is, and DEE.
 “ Thy DEE, upon the *West*, from WALES doth thee divide;
 “ Thy MERSEY, on the *North*, from the LANCASTRIAN Side,
 “ And tow’rds the DERBYAN PEAKE and MORELANDS—which do draw
 “ More mountainous and wild—the high crown’d SHUTTINGS-LAW
 “ And MOLECOP are thy Mounds; with those proud Hills, whence rove
 “ The lovely Sister Brooks, the Silv’ry *Dane* and *Dove*.
 “ Clear *Dove*, that makes to *Trent*; the other to the *West*:
 “ But, in that famous Town most happy, of the Rest,
 “ From which thou tak’st thy Name—Fair CHESTER!—call’d of old
 “ CAER-LEGION—whilst, proud *Rome* her Conquests here did hold,
 “ Of those, her LEGIONS known, the Faithful Station then;
 “ So stoutly held to *tack*, by the near *North-Wales* Men.
 “ Yet, by her own *right Name*, she’d rather called be,
 “ As her the Britons term’d, the FORTRESS UPON DEE.—
 “ Or—vainly she may seem a MIRACLE to stand,
 “ Th’ imaginary work of some *huge Giant’s* hand.

Poly-Olb. Song XI. Line 33, et seq.

September 3, 1771



The present chief Magistrate of this ancient City, is Mr. Lawton; who kindly superintends the Sale and Dispersion of this Letter.

